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REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 3, 1919

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THE SEED SITUATION IN EUROPE

Results of Investigation by Department of Agriculture in the United Kingdom, France, and Italy.

The Department's investigation of the seed situation in Europe, which was begun in January, is nearing completion. Mr. W. A. Wheeler, who represented the Bureau of Markets, has returned, and Dr. A. J. Pieters, who represented the Bureau of Plant Industry, is expected to return in a short time.

Together the men visited the United Kingdom, France, and Italy. After Mr. Wheeler's return, Dr. Pieters, remained for an investigation of the conditions in Belgium and Holland. The general results of their work in the first three countries mentioned are given below. Information will be given for Belgium and Holland later.

THE OUTLOOK FOR FIELD SEEDS

Red Clover

Prior to the investigation, there had been considerable demand from England for American red clover seed, but it was apparent that the supplies in the United States were much below normal and short of normal requirements. It was the attitude of the Department of Agriculture, however, that despite the possible shortage, clover seed should be furnished to Great Britain and, if necessary, to the other Allies to meet their general requirements for sowing, but not to meet commercial demands other than the absolute requirements for sowing.

Acting upon the request of the Department of Agriculture, the War Trade Board had allotted 3,000,000 pounds of red clover seed for export to the United Kingdom. After interviewing British officials and seedsmen, the Department's representatives have concluded that the allotment, together with seed from other sources, would be ample for planting requirements in the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom imports clover seed from both France and Italy, seed from Brittany, France, being preferred. From observation of conditions in France, in the absence of accurate statistics, it appeared to the Department's representatives that there was no surplus of red clover seed in France and that any supplies exported would have to be replaced by imports. However, it was learned that Italy had a surplus and was exporting to both France and England. France has prohibited further exportation of red clover seed to England. It was impossible to obtain any accurate estimates as to France's possible requirements of this seed.

In the United Kingdom American red clover seed takes preference over all other imported seed. With the dealers it ranks second only to their best home-grown product. The dealers are very much concerned as to the immediate outlook. There are no indications to them that the production, either in England or in the United States, will attain in the very near future the normal record of prewar years.

White Clover

Considerable white clover seed is imported by the United Kingdom from the United States every year. No restrictions have been placed upon exports from the United States, because white clover does not occupy the important place in American agriculture as does red clover. In England, however, it is a very important component of the meadows and pastures. A form of white clover known in the British Isles as "wild white clover" has come into prominence during the past few years. This seed is gathered from very old fields in certain portions of England and is supposed to represent a longer-lived and more productive form than other white clover. At the time of the visit the prices ranged from 20 to 25 shillings (\$4.75 to \$6.00) per pound, while ordinary white clover from the United States and other sources was from 25 to 50 per cent higher than in the United States.

Timothy

The demands for timothy seed in the United Kingdom, France, and Italy for their own planting are very small, and it is impossible at the present time to estimate with any degree of accuracy the Continental demands as a whole. The exports of timothy seed from the United States to Europe in the past have been largely for the central European countries. It is impossible now, under the unsettled conditions in those countries, to estimate their requirements. They undoubtedly will need large quantities of timothy seed, probably in excess of prewar requirements. It is possible that some of the wholesale dealers in the United Kingdom may endeavor to anticipate the Continental demands. Any large orders from the United Kingdom in the near future can be regarded as largely for distribution to Continental countries, since British home needs are small. It is the feeling that conditions will permit the delivery of seed to central European countries in sufficient time for fall sowing this year.

Redtop

The redtop seed situation is very similar to that of timothy, except that it does not occupy so important a place as timothy. The demands in the United Kingdom and France for their own planting are light.

Rye Grasses

Among the most important field seed imports into the United States from the United Kingdom are the rye grasses. The conditions in this industry practically are normal. It is roughly estimated that the annual production is approximately 30,000 long tons (67,200,000 pounds). About two-thirds of the crop is perennial and one-third Italian. The seed is exported largely by wholesale dealers of Belfast, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. About five-sixths of the total production is exported, and the United States is one of the leading customers. About five-sixths of the merchantable rye-grass seed produced in the United Kingdom is grown in the

northeastern part of Ireland and the remainder in Scotland, principally in Ayrshire. The seed is grown also in Aberdeenshire and other places north of Scotland, but very little is considered suitable for export.

Orchard Grass, or Cocksfoot

In the past the larger part of the imports of orchard grass into the United Kingdom have been from the United States and New Zealand. In recent years, Denmark has been offering considerable seed which, because of its better average appearance and purity, has preference over some of the American seed. With improved methods of culture and grading on the part of American growers and dealers, it is believed that the American seed would regain favor in the British markets, and that possibly there would be an increase over the former trade.

Meadow Fescue

The meadow fescue produced in the United States before the war was largely exported to European countries. During the war the trade was greatly reduced and American production was curtailed because of no large home demand. The British dealers hope that some meadow fescue will be offered by American dealers in the near future. To take care of the demand, it is recognized that possibly the acreage would have to be increased up to but not in excess of the prewar acreage. The foreign demand is not sufficient to warrant any substantial increase over the normal. If the meadow fescue region in eastern Kansas would plant a normal acreage, it is thought that this would be sufficient.

Kentucky Bluegrass

Dealers interviewed in Europe were very much interested in the possibility of obtaining the higher grades of Kentucky bluegrass. They are coming to know the better grades and do not like to take light-weight seed, or seed containing a large percentage of chaff. A large item of cost is represented by transportation and they recognize that it is foolish to pay high rates on light chaffy seed. There seems to prevail throughout the whole British seed trade a tendency toward high-quality seeds. Considerable low-grade seed of all kinds passes through British hands, but much of it is reexported.

VEGETABLE AND ROOT CROP SEEDS

Sugar Beet

There is no root crop in which the European countries are so greatly interested at the present time as the sugar beet. Russia was the chief source of supply. At the present time, England, France, and Italy are all looking for sugar beet in order to restore and develop the sugar industries. It appeared that these countries do not have a suf-

ficient supply of the seed for this season's requirements. The United States is able to produce about one-third of its requirements and has a sufficient supply for this season and for a portion of next year's needs. However, much of the sugar-beet seed stocks both in European countries and the United States at the present is of low germination because some of it has been kept for several years. The exact British and French requirements could not be learned, but it is estimated that Italy's requirements for what is supposed to be a normal acreage are approximately 2-1/2 million pounds. The Italians hope to develop profitable seed producing areas within their own borders.

Turnip and Rutabaga

It is thought that England will be able to supply normal quantities of turnip and rutabaga seed. They have done everything possible to maintain normal production. It appears that stocks are adequate, and the indications are that this year's crop will meet the export demands. The harvesting last year was very difficult under the conditions so that some of the seed has depreciated in quality while waiting in the field to be hulled or threshed. A considerable portion was still in the stacks in February and may not become available for this season's planting.

Vegetable Seed Outlook in France

It appears that the growers in France expect to plant a normal acreage of practically all vegetable-seed crops this season, with an increase in some cases to anticipate a demand from Central Europe and elsewhere. The supplies in France at present are adequate for their own use, and the larger dealers thought that they could take care of Belgium's requirements and also export some seed to Central-European countries when conditions permit.

American-grown vegetable seeds are now competing in the principal markets of the world with those grown in France. The French growers have an advantage in the age of their business and in their intensive methods of culture. On the other hand, the Pacific Coast growers of the United States have the advantage of a climate conducive to producing and harvesting a better quality of seed. If the growers of the United States will not allow extensive cultivation to interfere with intensive and careful handling of stocks, they may look for an increase in foreign demand. However, if the American growers expect to cater to European demands, they must grow those varieties which are adapted to European conditions and for which there is a European demand.

SEED TRADE RELATIONS

Hamburg was the seed marketing center of Europe before the war. It not only handled the home-grown seeds for export, but also assembled for export the surplus production of many other European countries. This particularly was true of French and Russian seeds. The large part of

the French seed imported by the United States, except vegetable seeds grown under contract for American account, came through Hamburg or other seed markets in Germany. Hamburg not only engaged extensively in exporting European seeds, but also served as an important distributing centre for Europe's imports from America and other overseas' countries. However, Hamburg was not very important as a medium between the United Kingdom and the United States, although it did handle a considerable portion of this trade in both directions. At present it seems that the wholesale seed concerns of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast are bidding for Continental trade, with London as the important distributing center.

The Seed Trade Association of the United Kingdom passed a resolution at a meeting in January agreeing not to trade with Germany for a period of five years. The action of the association, however, does not seem to express a unanimous opinion of the dealers. There is a feeling among the trade that it will be necessary to resume at a very early date the seed trade with Germany. It was the belief that even though some restrictions may be desirable it will be necessary to supply Germany with certain seeds and, in some cases, to obtain seeds from Germany. Developments of course will await the signing of peace and possibly the attitude of the association may be changed thereafter.

There seems to be no serious reason why American seedsmen can not establish and maintain direct trade relations with French dealers, rather than operate through other European countries as was largely the practice before the war. It is a matter of establishing proper business contacts and adjusting methods and standards to meet the peculiar requirements. An important factor is that the Germans used their own variety names and grades for the American seeds which they traded to France, so that in many cases the French dealers and consumers do not know the American names nor understand the American grades. It will be necessary in such cases to learn the German variety and grade designations and educate the French dealers to recognize the varieties and grades under the names by which they purchased them formerly.

PORTO RICAN PINEAPPLE EXPORTS

The Porto Rico Fruit Exchange estimates the 1919 supply of pineapples for export at 200,000 crates, with an average of 30 pineapples per crate.

CANADIAN GRAIN EXCHANGE DELEGATION TO VISIT ENGLAND

The State Department received, under date of March 13, the following communication from the American Consul at Fort William, Ontario, Canada, relative to the coming visit of a Canadian delegation to England

for conference with British officials on the release of the export surplus of the 1918 wheat crop:

"In a few days there will sail for London, England, a delegation representing the following grain exchanges of Canada: Fort William and Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Montreal, and Toronto.

"The object of the trip is to confer with the British officials and make arrangements for release of the 1919 Canadian wheat crop, so that it may be sold in the open market, as before the war.

"The delegate from the grain exchange of Fort William and Port Arthur is its secretary, Mr. Charles Birkett. Mr. Birkett has recently been elected secretary also of the association of all the grain exchanges of Canada.

"The 1918 Canadian export wheat crop (about 70,000,000 bushels) is practically all yet in Canada. All the grain elevators are bulging with it, and even every possible steamer is a storehouse therefor. No vessels have wintered here this season, all being at the lower lake ports filled with wheat.

"Arrangements have just been completed with the British Wheat Export Company whereby this 1918 wheat will be sold at the price fixed by the Government--namely, \$2.45 a bushel (for basis No. 1 Northern), and will be carried abroad in vessels furnished by Great Britain.

"The unloading of the vessels in the lower lake ports will begin immediately, so that they will be available as soon as navigation opens (expected unusually early this season, probably April 1) to take the wheat from the elevators in Fort William and Port Arthur, Ontario.

"The amount of wheat in these head-of-the-lakes elevators (33 in number), on March 8, 1919, was 29,387,366 bushels, as compared with 5,194,293 bushels a year ago."

INQUIRY FROM GREECE FOR QUOTATIONS ON FOOD PRODUCTS

The American Consul at Athens, Greece, under date of March 18, cabled the Department of State that quotations are desired on 1,000 tons of sugar, 2,000 tons of flour, 2,000 tons of wheat, and 500 tons of coffee, c.i.f. Piraeus or Constantinople, against confirmed credit in New York. The name and address of the importer desiring these quotations will be furnished upon application to the Bureau of Markets.

CONDENSED MILK TRADE IN HONGKONG

The following comprehensive report, dated February 10, on the condensed milk trade in Hongkong was received by the State Department from the American Consul General at Hongkong. It shows how the war has affected the import of condensed milk from Europe and laid a foundation for an increasingly large trade in American condensed milk.

"There has been an extraordinary trade in condensed milk through Hongkong during the past year. The total imports into the colony from all countries amounted to a value of \$4,077,606, of which a value of \$3,611,500 came from the United States and \$466,106 from all other countries. The extraordinary volume of the trade during the year is accounted for mostly by military requirements. The normal import of condensed milk into Hongkong in recent years had amounted to about 100,000 cases, valued at something like \$1,200,000 gold. Five years ago it amounted to not more than a third of this volume.

"There has been a great increase in the use of condensed milk by the Chinese in South China in normal times, however, chiefly for the use of infants and old people; and the trade just before the war broke out was assuming very much larger proportions. At that time there was considerable trouble with the competition of low-grade milks mostly from Japan in tins made up to resemble the higher grade American and European products.

"With the advent of war and the immense demand for milk for troops and people in devastated countries the price of good milk went beyond the reach of ordinary Chinese consumption, but, of course, the demand for military purposes even in this field more than made up the differences. Mesopotamia drew upon this market, or rather upon the American and Australian markets through Hongkong, for military purposes; and this demand for Mesopotamia and also the demand for American milk in the East Indies to supply a trade formerly securing its milk from Europe accounts for the extraordinarily large imports during the past year. The course of the trade during the year is indicated by the following table:

Imports of Condensed Milk into Hongkong, 1918

Imports from -	: March : quarter	: June : quarter	: September : quarter	: December : quarter	: Total
United States	: \$162,835	: \$271,788	: \$2,044,687	: \$1,132,140	: \$3,611,500
Other countries:	3,757	84,559	141,639	236,151	466,106
Total . . .	\$166,592	\$356,347	\$2,186,326	\$1,368,291	\$4,077,606

"The above figures cover imports of all kinds of tinned milk and cream. There are no statistics of the imports of previous years. Of these imports the immensely larger portion was for purely military purposes, although they are in addition to large amounts of milk imported by naval and military authorities direct which did not come into the trade returns of the port. The exports noted by the import and export office in the same way amounted to a value of about \$3,700,000. Aside from the exports for military purposes, the bulk of the trade has been abnormal, in that much of the supplies went to countries to the south of Hongkong rather than into the interior, where, as above indicated, consumption fell off because of unusually high prices.

"There is considerable speculation as to the future of this trade. Previous to the war the bulk of the trade was in Swiss milk. American goods, particularly several comparatively new brands from the Pacific coast, had commenced to come into the trade in increasing strength and bid fair to secure their full share of the trade. Australian milk also commenced to be felt in competition, and during the war increasing quantities of Australian milk have come into this field. The principal European milk concerns represented in Hongkong have supplied much of their trade during the war with Australian and American milk. Whether conditions in Europe will become nearly enough normal to permit the resumption of prewar trade in milk in the near future seems very doubtful; and in the meanwhile American and, to some extent, Australian milks have been more or less thoroughly introduced, with the result that in the future they will be able to compete with the European products on much more even terms. Present indications are for an indefinite continuance of the demand for American milk upon a scale not existing before the war."

LARGE ORDER FROM EUROPE FOR LARD SUBSTITUTES

The Food Administration, during the week ending March 22, received an order for 38,000,000 pounds of lard substitutes to be distributed by relief organizations in Europe. This is the largest order received, and is said already to have stimulated the movement of crude cottonseed oil and of cottonseed in the South.

LIVESTOCK SITUATION IN DENMARK

The American Consul General at Copenhagen, Denmark, has transmitted to the Department of State a special report for the Bureau of Markets, dated January 8, on the livestock situation in Denmark.

HORSES.-- A census taken in July, 1918, shows that there were 544,000 horses of all kinds, as against 511,000 in February of the same year. This increase, 33,000, is due principally to the fact that the greatest number of colts are born in the spring and early summer. In July, 1917, there were 572,412 horses, or 5 per cent more than a year later. This decrease probably can be accounted for partly by lack of feedstuffs and partly by export to Germany.

The price of horses varies greatly, from \$480 to \$600 for first-class animals over 3 years old. Horses not so good and 2-year-old colts sell for \$425 to \$530. During the war, when horses were being exported to Germany, buyers for the German Commission paid as high as \$1,075 per horse.

CATTLE.-- In February, 1918, the total number of cattle was 2,142,000. By July the number had decreased by 19,000, or to 2,123,000.

The market quotations for cattle for slaughtering purposes varied from \$0.13 to \$0.26 per 0.5 kilogram (1.1 pound), live weight.

SHEEP AND HOGS.-- The census of July, 1918, showed that there were 470,000 sheep in Denmark. No comparison can be made with February, as statistics are not available. The number of hogs increased from 513,000 in February to 621,000 in July and to 727,000 in December, a gain of 41 per cent during the 10-month period. These data show that the hog industry was rapidly recovering during 1918, especially during the latter half of the year.

At the beginning of the war, the livestock census showed that there were 2,497,000 hogs in Denmark. The effect of war in reducing the supply of feedstuffs, together with the scarcity of meat, had reduced the number by 1,744,000, a decrease of 70 per cent. However, in view of their great fecundity, it is evident that the numbers will be restored quickly when the supply of feedstuffs again becomes normal. The Consul General states in his report that the price farmers receive for their hogs is set by the Government. At the present time it is \$0.375 per pound.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.-- From January to November, 1918, there were imported into Denmark 2,017 horses and 1,020 colts. During the same period 29,199 horses were exported, presumably to Germany, owing to the high prices previously mentioned. No colts were exported, thus giving a net loss to the country of 26,162 horses. Only 6 adult cattle were imported, whereas 110,157 were exported. Fifteen calves were imported, but none were exported. The net loss therefore was 110,136 cattle. Neither sheep nor hogs entered into the exterior trade.

AGRICULTURAL MARKET SITUATION IN HONGKONG

The report for January, 1919, on the commerce and industries of Hongkong, which has just been received by the Department of State from the American Consul General at Hongkong, contains some interesting items relative to the import and export trade in agricultural products.

"FLOUR.-- Arrivals of flour have been fair, Australian flour predominating and now controlling the market. The stocks on hand increased from about 220,000 to about 230,000 sacks, while prices advanced slightly in sympathy with the lowering of exchange. No American flour is in the market, and prices on American flour are not quoted at the present time.

"RICE.-- The export situation during the month has hinged very largely upon the export of rice. Restrictions against the import of rice into the United States were removed at a time when there was almost nothing in the way of supplies in this market, the result being that lots available for shipment were comparatively small. However, some rice was shipped before the restrictions were reimposed, and in spite of the shortness of supplies here it is likely that considerable rice will be moved as soon as American import rules will permit. During the month the Government of Indo-China laid an embargo on the export of rice except on existing contracts. The supply of rice in Indo-China is very limited as a result of overexport, while late reports indicate that the new crop will probably not exceed 70 per cent of normal.

"The situation was further complicated by this embargo in the delay in announcing the policy of the Government. At first it was indicated that export licenses would be freely granted, but when the actual time for export came there was such delay that shipping piled up in Saigon at an alarming rate, not only delaying steamers and increasing ultimate freight rates but also unsettling the market in doubt as to what might actually be counted upon in the immediate future in that market. The movement of rice already sold in Japan continued during the month. Prices on the local market advanced from \$8.30 local currency to \$10.20 local currency per picul (from 5 cents to 6.1 cents gold per pound)."

The report indicates that rice, of a value of \$357,131 gold, was exported to the United States during January of this year. The monthly average in 1918 amounted to \$1,002,357 gold.

"PEANUTS.-- Shipments of peanuts have been below the average, but the local market has continued firm. Unshelled peanuts, fair average quality, are being quoted at \$10.70 per picul (132 pounds), f.o.b. Hongkong; and "Jumbo" at \$11.50 per picul, f.o.b. Hongkong. Shelled peanuts are being quoted f.o.b. Hongkong as follows:

30/32's at \$14.00 per picul
32/34's at \$13.60 per picul
34/36's at \$13.30 per picul
36/38's at \$13.00 per picul
38/40's at \$12.75 per picul

"Ungraded, for oil crushing at \$12 per picul, f.o.b. Hongkong; market steady."

Peanut oil to the value of \$11,183 gold was exported to the United States during January, 1919. The monthly average in 1918 amounted to \$19,179.

"SOY.-- There is a shortage of soy (a sauce made from soy beans) on hand, and some notable orders from the United States remain unfilled. Only the thin quality was available during the month. Stocks were sold at \$35 per cask of 5.1 piculs.

"All the above prices are convertible at an average of 78 cents gold to the Hongkong dollar.

"EXCHANGE.-- The fall in exchange which occurred during the month was not radical and really affected the market very slightly all things considered. The dollar in Hongkong fell from a telegraphic transfer value of 79 3/8 to 77 3/8 cents American gold, while rates in other parts of the Far East fell rather more radically. There has been a much easier feeling in finance generally since the arrival of supplies of silver purchased in the United States immediately after the signing of the armistice. The amount of silver in sight in Shanghai has increased from about 19,000,000 taels (tael= \$0.651) and 14,000,000 dollars (A dollar in Shanghai= \$0.469) to nearly 23,000,000 taels and 13,000,000 dollars, and the easier feeling was reflected in exchange between ports in China and Hongkong."

N O T E

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U.S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

THE SUGAR SITUATION IN JAVA

According to a report from the Netherlands, the shipping situation during the war prevented the exportation of sugar from Java to such an extent that the accumulated supplies of cane sugar on the island amounted to 1,200,000 tons of 2,240 pounds at the end of 1913.

In view of the accumulation and inability to move the supply, the planters formed in 1918 the Java Sugar Association for the cooperative control of the industry. This organization now regulates the prices and sales, allocates the available cargo space, and renders financial assistance to its members.

Owing to a long drought in 1918, the production in 1919 is estimated to be 73 per cent of that of 1918, or 1,240,000 tons. The area under cultivation in 1918 was approximately 400,000 acres; this year 340,000.

Nevertheless, despite this reduction in acreage, the Java planters decided to restrict further the 1919 acreage, in order to reduce the surplus and stabilize the industry.

Plantations under 1,053 acres	10 per cent reduction
Plantations from 1,053 to 1,316 acres	15 per cent reduction
Plantations from 1,316 to 2,193 acres	25 per cent reduction
Plantations from 2,193 acres	27 per cent reduction

The sugar trade with the United States was large before the war. In 1913 the Dutch East Indies furnished the United States with 5,740 tons of cane sugar. The amount decreased during the war until in 1918 less than 9 tons were received from Java. In 1899, when the Cuban supply was stopped temporarily by the Spanish-American War, the island of Java sent 71 per cent of its supply to this country, and relieved the acute shortage which existed at that time.

 SPAIN RESTRICTS EXPORTS OF PEANUTS

According to a Royal Order, dated January 24, 1919, the export of peanuts from Spain during the present year is limited to a total quantity of 10,000 tons. The fixed price is \$6.11 per 100 pounds, and the export duty is \$1.30 per 100 pounds. Importations from Spain into the United States amounted to 3,942 tons of 2000 pounds in 1914, and 357 tons in 1917. France has imported considerable quantities of peanuts from Spain.

THE POSITION OF AMERICAN FLOUR AT HONGKONG

The American Consul General at Hongkong reported to the Department of State, under date of January 3, 1919, that, owing to the wheat guarantee of \$2.26 per bushel to farmers in the United States, the market for American flour in Hongkong practically will be closed.

Although normally a very large importer of wheat flour, the total imports into Hongkong in 1918 amounted to only 706,509 bags, divided as follows: Australia 342,009 bags; North China 322,000 bags; and Japan 42,500 bags.

In 1917 North China was short of wheat and flour, and no supplies were available from Australia; therefore Japanese wheat dominated the market. The comparatively large imports from Japan in 1917 continued into 1918, but in February, 1918, the Japanese Government placed an embargo on further shipments except under special license. Furthermore, European countries came into the Far Eastern flour market for the first time in history; and whereas the Far East in normal times imported many million bags each year, still in 1917 flour from that part of the world was exported to Europe. In normal times American flour constituted the bulk of the imports at Hongkong, but the large shipments from America to Europe during the war cut off this trade.

Early in 1918 Japanese flour sold at \$1.88 gold per bag. Later in that year, owing to shipments of flour to Europe, the prices ranged from \$2.55 to \$2.62 gold per bag. At these prices consumption by the Chinese population practically ceased.

It is evident, therefore, that under prevailing conditions very little American flour will be sent to the Hongkong market during 1919, unless Australian and North China wheat is diverted to other markets. A comparison of the total amount of wheat imported into Hongkong for the years 1913 to 1918 follows:

1913 . . .	5,176,623 bags	1916 . . .	1,604,033 bags
1914 . . .	3,939,754 bags	1917 . . .	1,072,089 bags
1915 . . .	2,075,129 bags	1918 . . .	706,509 bags

At present the best flour on the Hongkong market comes from Australia, the Government there having lifted the embargo against wheat exportation. The supply is limited only by the tonnage available, the regular service comprising five steamships of small capacity. During the present year, however, it is probable that tramp tonnage also will be available. The present indications are that the supply for Hongkong will be largely Australian.

The stocks on hand at the close of 1918 were 320,000 bags, as compared with 300,000 bags in 1917 and six times that amount in normal times.

BRITISH PRICE RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN COTTONS REMOVED

The following cablegram, dated March 15, was received by the Department of State from the American Consul General at London, England, relative to the removal of the minimum prices on all cotton except American and Egyptian:

Board of Trade have revoked raw cotton order 1968 as respects East Indian, Peruvian, and all growths of cotton except American and Egyptian. Effect is that minimum price regulations are withdrawn except for American and Egyptian cottons, and accordingly no restrictions now exist upon prices at which such non-American and non-Egyptian cottons can be bought and sold.

CANADIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Some misunderstanding has prevailed in the trade regarding shipment of fruits and vegetables to Canada.

The War Trade Board of Canada has approved a general license, effective under date of February 28, 1919, permitting the importation of all commodities restricted by them during the war, except the following foodstuffs:

Macaroni	Wheat flour
Vermicelli	Wheat and oats
Spaghetti	Sugar

It is not necessary for the Canadian consignees to furnish a license for the importation of fruit and vegetables from the United States to Canada, nor for shippers in the United States to require one.

EXPORT OF SAGO FROM JAVA PROHIBITED

The export of sago and sago products from Java has been prohibited for the present. Sago, a starchy product of the sago palm, is extensively used as an article of food in the eastern Tropics. In order to obtain sago, 15-year-old trees must be cut up, as the starch is stored in the trunk before blossoming. The greater part of the sago imported into the United States comes from the Dutch East Indies. In 1917 the imports of sago into the United States amounted to 7,393,655 pounds, valued at \$204,854.

BRITISH REDUCTION IN PRICES OF VEGETABLE OILS

According to a cablegram received by the Department of State under date of March 27, from the American Consul General at London, England, the British Food Controller announced in Parliament that on February 22 the controlled prices of certain vegetable oils had been reduced to the following basis:

	Price per ton of 2,240 pounds
Refined coconut oil	\$375.93
Refined American cottonseed oil, .	462.27
Refined peanut oil	390.80
Refined palm kernel oil	326.02

A further reduction will be effective on March 31, as follows:

	Price per ton of 2,240 pounds
Refined coconut oil	\$313.35
Refined American cottonseed oil, .	311.42
Refined peanut oil	316.29
Refined palm kernel oil	306.46

It was pointed out in the report that the difference between the latter prices and the former represent losses to the Government.

 SPAIN RESTRICTS EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS

The Department of State received a cablegram from Hon. J. E. Willard, American Ambassador to Spain, under date of March 25, stating that the Government of Spain has issued an order annulling all permits that had been issued before January 1, 1919, to export food products, effective on April 20. All permits granted after January 1, 1919, will become null after 60 days from the date of their issue.

The above regulations, however, do not apply to scup pastes and olive oil.

REDUCTION OF EXPORT DUTY ON MEXICAN COTTON

According to a communication received by the Department of State from the American Charge d' Affaires at Mexico City, under date of February 25, the export duty on cotton has been reduced to 2 centavos per kilogram, gross weight (\$0.45 per 100 pounds). The order went into effect on February 16. The former export duty of 3 centavos per kilogram (\$1.35 per 100 pounds) was fixed by a decree of January 9, 1919. Before that date the duty was the same as exists at present.

CONCESSION TO WOOL GROWERS OF HUNGARY

Owing to the scarcity of fabrics and clothing for farmers in Hungary, the Minister of Commerce has made certain concessions to the wool growers. Heretofore producers have been permitted to retain 22 pounds of wool to be worked up at home. They are now allowed to have this raw material manufactured in textile factories. Wool growers who do not desire to use their allotment may sell it to persons not engaged in sheep breeding. All other stocks are to be offered to the Wool Central or to its agents.

REMOVAL OF RED CLOVER FROM EXPORT CONSERVATION LIST

The War Trade Board announced on March 17, 1919, the removal of red clover from the export conservation list. Wheat and wheat flour are the only agricultural products which remain on the list.

COTTON, WOOL, AND SUGAR MAY BE SHIPPED TO NORWAY

The War Trade Board has announced that hereafter raw cotton, wool and sugar may be shipped in rationed quantities to Norway.

SCARCITY OF MILK IN PORTO RICO

According to a recent Porto Rican farm bulletin, the loss of cattle, and hence milk, from tick infestation is increasing, thereby reducing the already inadequate supply of milk. The milk stations endeavor to make the small supply go as far as possible, but the existing

conditions would seem to indicate a probable need for importing dairy products and possibly some cattle.

FOOD SITUATION IN GERMANY DURING THE WAR

The German Statistical Office has made available comparative data of the supply of the principal foodstuffs for 1913 and during the war. These figures give some idea of the condition to which Germany has been reduced owing to the shortage of foodstuffs. An analysis shows that inadequate cultivation due to lack of labor, fertilizers, and implements have reduced the yield at a time when the maximum production was needed. The following table indicates the low yield in 1917, when the harvest was almost a complete failure.

Weather conditions in 1918 were favorable; yet the production was low. As this was due largely to a scarcity of labor, volunteer boy workers have been called for in order to increase the 1919 supply.

Production of Various Foodstuffs and Fodder in Germany in 1913 and during the War (Yield given in tons of 2,240 pounds)

Year	: Wheat	: Rye	: Barley	: Oats
1913	: 4,417,908	: 12,129,505	: 3,564,576*	: 9,504,002
1914	: 3,789,662	: 10,549,481	: 3,049,616*	: 8,346,387
1915	: 3,705,926	: 9,094,339	: 2,415,572*	: 5,890,129
1916	: 2,999,385	: 8,902,843	:	: 6,928,298
1917	: 3,226,005	: 6,377,191	: 1,957,058	: 3,628,255
1918	: 2,458,413	: 8,003,090	: 3,258,255	: 4,680,755

* Without winter barley.

Year	: Potatoes	: Sugar beets	: Clover	: Hay
1913	: 52,854,628	:	: 10,929,926	: 28,047,208
1914	: 44,696,408	: 10,876,982	: 10,660,249	: 28,000,119
1915	: 52,880,181	: 10,955,568	: 7,519,719	: 23,174,120
1916	: 24,691,170	: 10,137,975	: 10,052,047	: 27,707,899
1917	: 34,410,982	: 9,987,321	: 7,399,451	: 21,546,289
1918	: 29,469,718	: 9,823,800	: 6,585,216	: 21,414,369

Compared with that of the prewar year of 1913, the wheat production in 1918 decreased nearly 50 per cent. Rye reached its lowest level in 1917, when the crop was only 57 per cent of the normal yield. By 1917 barley had decreased to half the 1913 production. The oat crop was reduced 62 per cent. The yield of potatoes fluctuated during the war, reaching the lowest ebb in 1916, when only 24,691,170 tons were harvested, as against 52,854,628 tons in 1913, a loss of 53 per cent. Sugar beets stood

up fairly well, the production decreasing but 9 per cent during the war. The clover yield in both 1914 and 1916 was nearly normal, although in the other war years the drop was heavy, about 40 per cent. The hay crop decreased from 28,000,000 tons in 1913 and 1914 to 21,414,969 tons in 1918. These reductions can be attributed in part to the decrease in the acreage cultivated.

The following table shows even better than the former the actual decrease from year to year.

Yield per Acre of Various Foodstuffs and Fodder
in Germany in 1913 and during the War Period

Commodity	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Winter wheat . . . bushels	36.44	30.7	30.0	28.33	23.5	26.9
Summer wheat . . . do	34.6	47.0	27.4	29.4	20.8	23.7
Winter rye . . . do	31.1	27.0	23.3	24.2	20.6	22.6
Summer rye . . . do	21.4	19.9	16.2	18.8	13.6	15.2
Summer barley . . do	43.1	37.4	29.0	---	24.1	28.4
Oats . . . do	62.4	60.5	51.2	55.2	29.4	41.3
Potatoes . . . do	63.5	24.1	48.4	86.0	46.8	45.3
Sugar beets . . . tons	---	12.0	11.5	9.96	10.2	9.3
Irrigated meadows. do	2.22	2.41	2.06	2.32	1.87	1.84
Other meadows. . . do	1.96	2.06	2.41	2.2	1.5	1.37

RISE IN PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN PARIS DURING THE WAR

The following table shows the rise in prices of foodstuffs during the war years 1915 to 1918 and also gives both the average wholesale and retail prices for January, 1919:

Comparison of prices of foodstuffs in Paris, 1915-1919

Commodity		1915	1916	1917	1918	January, 1919	
						Wholesale	Retail
Meat (sirloin of beef)	pound	\$0.234	\$0.259	\$0.343	\$0.552	\$0.579*	
Poultry (chicken)	do	.31	.378	.505	.27	.42	1.05
Fish	do	.152	.218	.386	.49	.503	.75
Butter	do	.41	.457	.648	.735	1.275	1.75 (.98*)
Eggs	dozen	.29	.39	.54	.735	1.57	.15 each
Cheese (Gruyere)	pound	.261	.366	.509	.587	.745	1.40

* Fixed price.

INCREASE IN PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN SWITZERLAND DURING THE WAR

The increases in the prices of foodstuffs in Switzerland were from 41.2 to 526.1 per cent over prewar figures. The following table gives the average prices in April, 1914, and in October, 1918, together with the percentage increases:

Commodity		: Apr., 1914	: Oct., 1918	: Percentage increase
Fresh pork	pound:	\$0.21	\$0.79	275.2
Lard (home supply)	do :	.175	1.05	500.0
Suet (raw)	do :	.123	.525	326.8
Beef (with bones)	do :	.175	.403	130.3
Bacon (smoked)	do :	.226	.5	121.2
Butter	do :	.32	.69	115.6
Emmenthal Cheese	do :	.20	.37	85.0
Milk (full cream)	quart:	.22	.34	41.2
Potatoes (home-grown)	pound:	.088	.263	198.8
New-laid eggs	doren:	.23	1.44	526.1
Whole meal	pound:	.039	.073	37.2
Bread	do :	.033	.064	93.9
Pastes	do :	.043	.12	150.0
Corn meal	do :	.036	.07	94.4
Lump sugar (in sacks)	do :	.04	.11	175.0

ARGENTINE WHEAT SUPPLY AND PRICES

According to a report of the American Consul General at Buenos Aires to the Department of State, under date of January 9, 1919, the latest statistics on the wheat stocks for Argentina showed a visible supply on December 31, 1913, of 39,096,400 bushels. If the forecast of 187,353,500 bushels for the crop which has just been harvested is correct, the total quantity of wheat to be marketed in 1919 will amount to 226,449,900 bushels. It is estimated that local consumption and this year's seeding requirements will be 66,060,000 bushels, leaving 160,389,900 bushels for export.

The Argentine Government has fixed the minimum price for export wheat at \$1.55 per bushel. A rate of \$35 per ton of 2,240 pounds, equivalent to \$0.94 per bushel, from Buenos Aires to New York, has been quoted by the United States Shipping Board. This would make the price of Argentine wheat at New York \$2.49 per bushel. The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome is authority for a rate of \$0.34 per bushel from Buenos Aires to Liverpool, which would make the price of Argentine wheat at Liverpool \$1.89 per bushel. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the British Government has fixed the sale price of imported wheat at \$2.40 per bushel.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF MARKETS
FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 10, 1919

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

THE OCEAN SHIPPING SITUATION

The latest official statement on the world's ocean shipping situation is very reassuring and clearly indicates that before the present year is far advanced the world's merchant fleet may be as large as prior to the war. This will not mean an abundant supply of tonnage for all needs, because a number of ships still will be required for military purposes, and a larger proportion of the world's shortage of foodstuffs will be moved longer distances, owing to the shortage in eastern Europe. However, the general position will be greatly improved and is expected to grow better.

Allied and Neutral Tonnage

On August 1, 1914, the tonnage of non-Teutonic countries, amounted to 42,441,372 gross tons. The total losses (not including those of the Central Powers), due to submarine and all other war causes, from August 1, 1914, to November 30, 1918, amounted to 15,067,851 gross tons, of which amount the United States lost 6 per cent, Great Britain 60 per cent, other allied and neutral nations 34 per cent. The total gross tonnage built during the same period, excepting that in the Central-European countries, was 10,849,527. To this may be added the enemy tonnage in the possession of the Allies, totaling 2,392,675 gross tons, which would leave a net loss to the trade of the allied and neutral world of 1,725,649 gross tons. The present rate of construction for the shipyards of the world is estimated at 600,000 gross tons per month, at which rate the world's tonnage would be restored to the prewar basis by the first part of March, 1919.

German and Austrian Tonnage

In addition, a considerable merchant tonnage now held by the Central Powers will be released supposedly when peace is signed. The steam marine tonnage of Germany on June 30, 1914, amounted to 5,291,533 gross tons. The losses by seizure, capture, war, and marine loss, sales, etc., amounted to 2,705,133 gross tons, leaving in the possession of Germany at the close of the war 2,586,400 gross tons, which was distributed as follows: in trade with enemy ports 1,532,776 gross tons; sheltering or detained in neutral ports 764,663 gross tons; employment or location unknown 289,955 gross tons. Additions to the German fleet during the period of the war amounted to 721,241 gross tons, to which may be added 137,798 gross tons captured from the allied and neutral nations. The latter, according to the terms of the armistice, must be released. The total marine tonnage in possession of Germany at the time the armistice was signed was 3,307,641 gross tons.

The steam fleet of Austria on June 30, 1914, was 1,038,835 gross tons. The losses from all causes was 392,713 gross tons, leaving 646,122 gross tons in the possession of Austria at the close of the war, which was distributed as follows: 502,937 gross tons in trade or in Austrian, German, and Turkish ports; 123,361 gross tons sheltering or detained in neutral ports; and 19,324 gross tons not located. Additions to the Austrian fleet during the war were 56,672 gross tons, making the total merchant tonnage in the possession of Austria at the time the armistice was signed 702,794 gross tons.

This would leave in possession of the Central Powers on November 11, 1918, a grand total of 4,010,435 gross tons to be added to the merchant tonnage of the world. A portion of this has been turned over already to the Allied Governments for operation in exchange for foodstuffs.

Progress of Construction

The total output of allied and neutral shipyards for the year, 1918, amounted to 5,447,444 gross tons. Lloyds' estimate of the total number of ships on the ways in the shipyards of the world in January, 1919, was 2,139 ships with a gross tonnage of 6,921,989 tons, and the United States Shipping Board now has under contract 1,336 steel cargo ships which will be completed in 1920, and there will then be under the American flag a total steel cargo and passenger fleet of 16,732,700 dead-weight tons; 788 vessels with a dead-weight tonnage of 4,094,587 tons now fly the American flag in overseas trade. The United States Shipping Board estimates that from December 1, 1918, to March 1, 1919, there were carried overseas 1,200,000 tons of foodstuffs, 80 per cent of which was loaded in American bottoms. These facts would appear to assure exporters and importers that ample tonnage for the expansion of American sea-borne trade will soon be available and that lower rates and more favorable shipping conditions will prevail in the near future.

Arrangements Under Way to Facilitate Export Movement from Inland Points

The United States Railroad Administration has recently created an export department to handle such problems of export trade as may be affected by the railroad service. In cooperation with the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, and the United States Shipping Board, it is working out a plan to reestablish the principle of differential rail rates on export traffic from inland shipping points to the American seaboard with a view to equalizing the cost of transportation to all ports of the United States, thereby making possible a uniform and reasonable distribution of foreign traffic among the ports

according to their facilities for handling export traffic. Through rates from the principal inland shipping centers to the principal foreign markets are to be taken into consideration also in the construction of inland differential rates, and the through export bill of lading covering the transportation of shipments from inland points to foreign destinations is to be reestablished.

BRITISH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS REMOVED

Egyptian Cotton

According to cablegrams received by the Department of State, under date of March 28, from the American Consul General at London, the system of rationing the sale of raw Egyptian cotton to individual spinners has been abolished, there now being no restrictions on such purchases by either the spinner or the merchant.

All registered orders for Egyptian cotton placed with the control commissioners in Alexandria, Egypt, prior to March 31, or after that date, may be canceled at the option of the purchaser.

Condensed Milk

The Consul General also reported that the British Food Controller on May 31 will release all control of canned condensed milk, except that the maximum retail prices (\$0.23-0.29 per tin of 12 to 16 oz. for full cream) still will be retained. After June 1, general licenses will be issued for the importation of condensed milk.

Bacon, Hams, and Lard

The existing stocks of imported bacon, hams, and lard bought by the Food Ministry will be sold through approved agents after March 31. Agents will be allotted not less than 200 boxes of bacon or hams or 10 tons of lard, and will receive a commission of 2 shillings 3 pence (\$0.55) per cwt.

Additional Foodstuffs under General License

The Consul General reported that the following agricultural products, which formerly were restricted, may now be imported freely into United Kingdom under general licenses: Baked beans; canned

beans baked with pork and tomato sauce; canned pork and beans, coffee; canned, bottled, and preserved fruits; hams; tallow; and vegetables, except gherkins in brine. The articles in the foregoing list are either additions to previous general-license lists or are amendments to those lists. (Previous reference was made to British restrictions in "Reports on Foreign Markets," No. 1, March 27, 1919, page 12.)

FOREIGN TRADE IN BUTTER AND CHEESE

The principal countries producing an export surplus of butter and cheese are the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, and Argentina.

The principal foreign markets for American dairy products are the United Kingdom, Panama, Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, Peru, and China.

The exportation of cheese to Cuba in 1917^a amounted to 1,540,000 pounds, and there was an increase for the calendar year of 1918 to 3,121,000 pounds. Except for negligible quantities, the only European country taking American dairy products is the United Kingdom. In 1917^a the exportations of butter to England were small; the exports of cheese amounted to 634,000 pounds. In 1917^a the United Kingdom imported from the United States 20,583,000 pounds of butter and 51,000,000 pounds of cheese, compared with 22,250,115 pounds of butter and 38,367,000 pounds of cheese for the calendar year of 1918. The United Kingdom is now by far our largest foreign market. This is largely the result of the war. However, this outlet is expected to decline as production conditions in Europe improve and larger imports are possible from Australasia.

As indicating the present source of the British supplies of dairy products and the competitive markets for English trade there is given below the latest official statistics of importations of butter into the United Kingdom for a period of 12 months ending with November 30, 1918:

Value of Imports of Butter into the United Kingdom for January-November, 1918

Country	Value (Dollars)	Country	Value (Dollars)
Denmark	3,626,480	New South Wales*	12,742,333
France	360,067	Queensland*	7,395,567
Netherlands	799,649	New Zealand	20,225,972
United States	10,030,533	Canada	3,542,544
Argentina	14,953,752	Other countries	3,615,174
Victoria (Australia)	13,263,378	Total	89,617,565

* Australia

^a Fiscal year

The British Government bought the entire export surplus of both butter and cheese from Australia for the past two years at a fixed price ranging from \$36.36 to \$39.45 per cwt. of 112 pounds for butter and \$0.20 per pound for cheese, f.o.b. steamers Australian ports. The price fixed was much below the world's market price and resulted in a considerable decrease in the production. The Government also bought the entire export surplus of New Zealand for the years 1917 and 1918 at a fixed price of \$38.23 per cwt. for butter and \$0.20 per pound for cheese, f.o.b. steamer, the producer to receive 50 per cent of the profit derived from the price at which the products were disposed of in the markets of the United Kingdom. A recent report indicated that the producers received as their share of the profit on the sale of last season's surplus of butter 17 shillings (\$4.13) per cwt. The American Consul General at Auckland, New Zealand, has reported that the Imperial Government has offered to purchase the output of that country for the season 1918-19 at \$34.04 per cwt. for butter and \$0.215 per pound for cheese.

Denmark, prior to the war, exported large quantities of dairy products, a considerable portion of which found its way to the English market. The production of butter in Denmark in the calendar year 1914 amounted to 257,400,000 pounds. For the twelve months from October, 1917, to October, 1918, the production was only 130,900,000 pounds. Of this quantity 92,400,000 pounds were absorbed by the home markets, leaving only 38,500,000 pounds for export. The total cheese produced in Denmark for the year ending October, 1917, was 53,900,000 pounds, while for the year ending October, 1918, the amount fell off to 41,800,000 pounds.

The principal countries from which the United States imports dairy products are Italy, France, Switzerland, and Argentina. In the fiscal year 1915 Denmark exported 1,620,000 pounds of butter to the United States, but in the fiscal year 1917, America's total imports consisted only of small consignments from Australia and New Zealand. The total importations of butter during the calendar year 1918 amounted to 1,655,000 pounds. The importation of cheese from Italy in the fiscal year 1917 amounted to 3,432,000 pounds, from France 1,937,000 pounds, from Switzerland 1,640,000 pounds, and from Argentina 1,341,000 pounds. Importations of cheese for the calendar year 1918 amounted to 542,000 pounds from France, 5,044 pounds from Italy, and 6,589,000 pounds from Argentina. The rapid increase of importations from Argentina is noteworthy.

BUTTER SHORTAGE IN PARIS

In 1912 the daily average amount of butter reaching Paris was 121,000 pounds. During the first week of February, 1919, it was 55,000 pounds, or less than half the prewar receipts. A French investigator sent to one of the large dairying provinces, Normandy, reported that the shortage was caused by the slaughter of cows for meat, which brings relatively higher prices than milk.

According to the investigator, a quart of milk cost about \$0.06 before the war, as against \$0.17 at the time of the investigation, an increase of 183 per cent. Before the war an 8-day-old-calf brought about \$5.80, whereas now it will sell for \$29, an increase of 400 per cent. The prewar price of a cow was about \$58, but at present it is approximately \$232, a rise of 300 per cent. For this reason the farmers have been killing off their dairy cows, thus lessening the milk supply. To counteract this tendency, it has been proposed to import a large supply of meat, and to prohibit the slaughter of dairy cattle.

AMERICAN EDIBLE BEANS IN EUROPEAN MARKETS

A substantial increase in the exports of beans from the United States was an interesting development of the war. Exportations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, were 1,517,530 bushels.

There is given below the exportation of beans from the United States for the four months, November, 1918, to February, 1919, inclusive, which will indicate the extent of the trade since the signing of the armistice, and the foreign markets which have been active in the purchase of beans:

Exports of Beans from the United States November, 1918, to February, 1919, Inclusive

Exported to -	1918		1919		Total
	November	December	January	February	for 4 months
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Belgium	22,397	18,791	22,960	1,333	65,481
Denmark . . . . .	...	...	...	1,175	1,175
France . . . . .	...	60,943	205,635	226,836	493,414
Italy	26,666	16,992	7,568	83,058	134,284
Norway . . . . .	...	...	50	...	50
United Kingdom . . . . .	...	34,376	40	107,507	141,923
Canada and Newfoundland	798	3,584	6,737	5,158	16,277
Mexico	3,728	778	1,923	1,514	7,943
West Indies	1,794	13,739	34,307	73,356	123,196
South America	19	10	639	138	806
China	1	...	...	3	4
Hongkong	17	...	...	...	17
All other markets	526	763	1,258	3,576	6,123
Total	55,946	149,976	281,117	503,654	990,693

Prior to 1918 beans were not shown separately in the official export statistics, but were included with dried peas. However, it is known that a very large percentage of the combined exports were beans, as, for instance, 83 per cent in 1918. The following table therefore will serve to indicate the extent of the increase in the trade during the war:

Exports of Dried Beans and Peas from the
United States, 1914 - 1918

1914	314,655 bushels
1915	1,214,281 bushels
1916	1,760,383 bushels
1917	2,164,943 bushels
1918	1,783,548 bushels

It is reported that the Wheat Commission for the Inter-Allied Food Commission has sufficient stocks of beans (mostly Rangoon) on hand in the United Kingdom for three years' requirements, and that the Commission has tried without success to place some of the supply in available markets of Europe. It is reported that Rumania would take some for seed, but the British Ministry of Shipping has been unable to give encouragement as to shipping facilities from the United Kingdom to that country in the near future. Notwithstanding this, American beans continue to go forward to Europe in substantial quantities.

The United States Shipping Board has quoted the following rates, per 100 pounds, on edible beans in bags from New York: to Havana \$0.575; to the United Kingdom ports \$1.07; to Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Havre, and Bordeaux, \$1.39; to Marseilles, Genoa, and Naples, \$1.82.

REDUCTION IN BRITISH WOOL PRICES

An average reduction of 7.5 per cent in the prices of unmanufactured wool, effective on April 1, has been announced by the Wool Section of the British War Office, according to a report, dated March 10, from the American Consul at Bradford, England, to the Department of State. This decrease is due to the elimination of war risks and a modification of freight rates. The revised prices, which will remain in force until November 30, 1919, are for wool with 16 per cent regain. The issue prices per pound for scoured fleece wools vary from 26 1/2 - 28 1/2 d. (\$0.55 - 0.59) for 36's to 67 1/2 - 70 1/2 d. (\$1.35 - 1.43) for 80's; for scoured pieces and bellies, 26 1/2 - 28 1/2 d. (\$0.53 - 0.57) for 36's to 65 1/2 - 68 1/2 d. (\$1.31 - 1.37) for 80's; scoured tops in oil 32 1/2 d. (\$0.59) for Colonial 36's to 79 d. (\$1.58) for Colonial 80's; and 28 d. (\$0.56) for Scotch 32's to 58 d. (\$1.16) for super-Down 58's. Dry combed tops cost 7 per cent more than the tops in oil.

Public auctions of Australasian wools were resumed on April 2 at the Wool Exchange, London. Approximately 60,000 bales of combing wools and 20,000 bales of clothing wools were auctioned from April 2 to 11. These sales are open to home trade and to a limited extent to European Allied countries.

WOOL AND HIDES SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

WOOL.-- The market for wool at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, during December, 1918, was very dull, according to a report of the American Consul at Port Elizabeth to the Department of State dated January 10. Japanese buyers paid high prices for superior lots of super-combing wools, but there was little demand for other wools.

At a public sale held on December 18, 1918, the prices ranged from \$0.16 - 0.21 per pound for coarse and colored grease to \$0.20 - 1.04 for superior snow-white wools.

The prices of mohair were from \$0.10 - 0.16 a pound for locks to \$0.50 - 0.60 for best winter kids.

HIDES AND SKINS.-- The Consul reports that the following were the prevailing prices for hides and skins toward the end of December, 1918:

Hides	per pound . . .	\$0.12 - 0.27
Cape skins	each	0.85 - 1.34
Angora skins	per pound . . .	0.06 - 0.17
Goat skins	per pound . . .	0.20 - 0.39
Pelts	per pound . . .	0.06 - 0.20
Sheepskins	per pound . . .	0.20 - 0.25

SIAMESE RICE TRADE IN 1918

According to a report received by the Department of State, under date of February 4, from the American Vice Consul in Charge at Bangkok, Siam, the exports of rice from Siam in 1918 amounted only to about 61 per cent of the average trade of the four previous years 1914-1917. In December, 1918, however, the shipments nearly doubled those of October and November. The December exports amounted to 83,566.9 tons of 2,240 pounds, as compared with 46,682 tons in November and 47,491 tons in October.

Large purchases by certain countries, notably the Straits Settlements and the Malay States, are given as the reason for the increased exports in December. These countries, even under normal conditions, are the largest consumers of Siamese rice. The abnormal quantities purchased from Siam were due probably to the prohibition of all exportation of rice from Burma, the principal source of supply of the Straits Settlements for the cheaper grade of rice.

The Vice Consul stated that the monthly customs report showed that the exports of rice through the port of Bangkok for the calendar year 1918 amounted to 710,876 tons, valued at \$33,179,536 gold, against 1,229,733 tons, valued at \$38,291,747, in 1917. The following table gives the quantities of rice and rice products exported from Siam to various foreign countries for the last five calendar years (1914-1918):

Exports of Rice from Siam for the Years 1914-1918
(Quantities given in tons of 2,240 pounds)

Countries	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
British Malay States	:	:	:	:	:
Straits Settlements, and Netherlands India,	474,504:	556,736:	646,057:	706,395:	459,675
China, Japan, and Hongkong	399,441:	382,807:	410,517:	456,237:	238,249
Europe, including Port Said (for orders) and Alexandria	235,360:	172,171:	67,055:	60,891:	6,939
Other countries (including United States)	8,571:	15,138:	14,672:	6,210:	6,013
Total	1,117,876:	1,126,902:	1,138,301:	1,229,733:	710,876

The exports in 1918 were divided as follows approximately: white rice 393,155 tons; white broken rice, 230,531 tons; cargo rice, 15,536 tons; broken cargo rice, 4,380 tons; white rice meal, 52,262 tons; other rice products, 14,507 tons.

In the following table are given statistics of the exports of rice from Siam to the United States, according to the invoices in the American Consulate at Bangkok:

Exports of Rice from Siam to the United States
for the Fiscal Years Ended March 31, 1914-1916, 1918

(Quantity expressed in tons of 2,240 pounds)

Year	Quantity	Value
1914	4,217	\$173,265
1915	(?) 739	(?) 147,896
1916	4,862	174,613
1917*	...	...
1918	135	12,124

* No rice was exported to the United States in 1917.

At the end of June, 1918, the closing price for white rice, at the wharf, ranged from \$0.0264 to 0.0271 per pound. By November, 1918, the price had advanced to from \$0.0431 to \$0.0514 per pound.

The Vice Consul stated that at present the entire rice milling industry in Bangkok is in the hand of the Chinese, as the European mills have ceased operations during the war. However, a Swiss firm is expected soon to begin milling. The Chinese millers, as a rule, do not

sell direct to Europe or America, doing business mainly with Hong-kong, Singapore, Java, and Japan. Rice exported to other markets is generally supplied through European export firms in Bangkok. There are about 60 rice mills in Siam.

INDIA'S EXPORTS OF PEANUTS

Reference was made in "Reports on Foreign Markets" of March 27, 1919, to the prospects for the importation of peanuts from India, with export statistics for the district of Bombay. The total exportation of peanuts from India as a whole for the fiscal years of 1914 and 1918, inclusive, in tons of 2,240 pounds, were as follows:

	Tons
1914	277,900
1915	138,300
1916	175,400
1917	147,500
1918	115,300

Recent information indicates that the average price at the end of January, 1919, and at the same date in the five preceding years were as follows:

	Price per 100 pounds
1914	\$2.48
1915	1.53
1916	2.03
1917	2.00
1918	1.95
1919	4.42

Normally, France receives four-fifths of the total exports from India. The prevailing ocean rate from Madras to Marseilles during 1918 was \$3.47 per 100 pounds for shelled nuts, while the present rate from Madras to New York is quoted at \$1.50 per 100 pounds, which would make the price of the shelled peanuts \$7.89 per 100 pounds at Marseilles and \$5.92 at New York. The present rate on shelled peanuts from New York to Marseilles is approximately \$1.90 per 100 pounds.

It is not believed that substantial quantities of peanuts will be imported into the United States from India, on account of

the demand in the French markets and in view of recent reports on the crop condition for this year, which is estimated as showing a decrease of 55 per cent as compared with last year.

FIG SITUATION IN TURKEY

The American Commissioner at Constantinople forwarded the following cablegram, under date of March 25, to the Department of State for the Bureau of Markets in response to an inquiry made by it as to the fig situation in Turkey:

"Fig crop 1916 about nineteen thousand tons (42,- 560,000 pounds); 1917, sixteen thousand five hundred tons (35,960,000 pounds), of which 20 per cent consumed locally. Today's stock two thousand tons (4,480,000 pounds); quantity held by growers unknown. Present weather conditions favorable for next crop, but forecast on production impossible before June."

Normally, the United States imported more figs from Turkey than from all other countries combined, as is shown by the following comparative table of imports:

Imports of Figs into the United States from Turkey as Compared with the Total Imports; 1912 - 1917

Country	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Turkey in Europe	55,083	17,562	8	149,715	...	...
Turkey in Asia	12,450,381	13,981,643	13,160,786	12,372,312	...	...
Total from Turkey	12,505,464	13,999,205	13,160,794	12,522,027	...	...
Total from all countries, including Turkey	18,765,408	16,837,819	19,234,868	20,779,730	7,153,250	16,479,733
Percentage imported from Turkey	67	83	68	60	...	...

EXPORT OF CANARY SEED RESTRICTED BY SPAIN

The Spanish Minister of Supply has published a decree that the export of canary seed during 1919 shall be limited to 2,455 tons, and that the price shall be \$10.90 per 100 pounds, with an export tax of \$3.48 per 100 pounds.

DEMAND FOR VEGETABLE OILS AND OIL CAKE IN DENMARK

The prosperity of the butter and margarine industries of Denmark are very closely related. The falling off in the exports of butter from Denmark during the war was not due so much to a decline in the number of dairy cattle, as to the shortage of proper feedstuffs. Under prewar conditions Denmark consumed margarine and exported butter. The margarine industry was greatly reduced during the past two years (1917-18) as a result of the failure in negotiations for raw materials. The total output of margarine in 1918 amounted to 1,250 tons of 2,204.6 pounds as against 34,320 tons in 1910 and 56,480 tons in 1916. Both the butter and margarine industries are dependent upon the vegetable oil industry, the vegetable oils being used for the production of margarines and the oil cake as feeding stuff for dairy cattle.

A report from the American Commercial Attache at Copenhagen, under date of February 15, states that 10,000 tons of soy beans had arrived at that port from Manchuria. This was taken to mean the immediate resumption of margarine manufacture on a large scale, the release of more butter for export, and an increase in the supply of feed suitable for the dairy herds.

Prior to the war, Denmark produced but a small portion of the oil cake it consumed. The total importation in 1913 was 594,000 tons, whereas the domestic production was only 74,000 tons, making the total consumption for that year 668,000 tons. About one-third of this amount was cottonseed-oil cake from the United States, and the rest was sunflower- and hemp-seed-oil cake from Russia, soy-bean-oil cake from Germany, and peanut-oil cake from France.

The number of dairy cows reported for the year 1914 was 1,310,268, while for the year 1918 there were 1,048,764, which would indicate that the demand for feedstuffs will be but a little short of that of the prewar period.

Neither Russia nor Germany will be able to resume soon the prewar exports of oil cake. France also may be short in the production of peanut-oil cake on account of the failure of the crop in India, about four-fifths of which has been imported by French merchants. It would appear, therefore, that American oil cake may find an increased demand in Denmark.

FRENCH IMPORTS OF DRIED WINE GRAPES

The American Consul General at Bordeaux, France, in a report to the Department of State, under date of February 24, relative to the imports of dried wine grapes, stated that in 1908 the French Government prohibited the manufacture of beverages from dried grapes. This regulation is still in force, but, as indicated in the report, it is probable that the restrictions will be removed, owing to the prevailing high prices of wine.

In 1918 only 110 pounds of dried grapes were imported into Bordeaux from Spain, while 35,398 pounds entered from the United States. A larger amount was imported from Greece, Turkey, and Asia Minor, via Marseilles, some Bordeaux merchants importing 8,000 or 10,000 cases of 55 pounds each.

Dried wine grapes are subject to a duty of 25 francs (\$4.83) per 100 kilograms (220.4 pounds) and also to an excise tax of almost double the duty, so that the total tax amounts nearly to 75 francs (\$14.48) per 100 kilograms. Cooking raisins are subject to a duty of 15 francs (\$2.90) per 100 kilos. Raisins are packed in cases weighing 25 or 30 kilos (55 or 66 pounds). Dried wine grapes are packed in sacks of 25 kilos.

PRICE OF FOODSTUFFS IN ITALY

The following prices of foodstuffs prevailed in Rome and Milan during February:

	: Price :	City
White beans:	:	:
Large pound :	\$0.217 :	Rome
Small do :	.156 :	do
Brazilian do :	.087 :	do
Lentils do :	.175 :	do
Eggs dozen :	.926 :	do
Chickens pound :	.92-1.14 :	Milan
Ducks do :	.79 :	do
Turkeys do :	.87-1.05 :	do

CONSUMPTION OF HORSEFLESH IN MILAN

The consumption of horseflesh in Milan, Italy, has greatly increased during the last few years. In many cases horseflesh is now preferred to beef, as the latter has been of poor quality and very scarce. During 1916-17 the wholesale prices of horses for slaughter reached as high as \$43.86 per cwt. However, during 1918, especially the latter part of the year, the price fell, the average being \$23.68 per cwt. for English horses and \$17.54 for Italian horses. Dorkeys brought \$8.77 per cwt. The reduction was due to a large supply being available through the termination of hostilities. Nevertheless, the maximum fixed retail price has not fallen in proportion to the decrease in the wholesale price, the consumer paying from \$0.48 to \$0.57 per pound for meat. The number of shops selling horseflesh increased from 45 in 1917 to 132 in January, 1919. In 1916, 11,009 horses were slaughtered for food; 16,203 in 1917; and 24,585 in 1918.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 17, 1919

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REGULATIONS FOR EXPORTATION OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR

The War Trade Board announces, under date of April 11, the following rules governing the export of wheat and wheat flour:

WHEAT - "Licenses for the export of wheat will be issued only to the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation or its nominees.

WHEAT FLOUR - "Licenses will be issued for the export of wheat flour to all destinations in the Western Hemisphere, the East Coast of Asia, British, French, and Portuguese West Africa, Liberia, and the Belgian Congo. For the exportation of wheat flour to other destinations, licenses will be issued only to the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation or its nominees.

"The foregoing rules are subject to the usual regulations governing trading with the enemy.

"Applications for licenses to export wheat flour to the Western Hemisphere, the east coast of Asia, or the west coast of Africa should be filed with the War Trade Board, Washington, or with any of their branch offices."

RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH POLAND

Acting concurrently with the competent authorities of the other associated Governments, the War Trade Board announces that all persons in the United States are authorized, on and after April 1, 1919, subject to the rules and regulations of the War Trade Board, to trade and communicate freely with persons residing in Poland.

"All shipments should be consigned to the order of the 'Relief Administration, Danzig,' for the account of the actual Polish importer as subconsignee. Duplicate shipping documents should be forwarded to the Relief Administration at Danzig. Upon the arrival of the shipment the Relief Administration will, as promptly as possible, forward the same to Poland, and will indorse over and forward to the Polish consignee all shipping documents in its possession."

MODIFICATION OF ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The War Trade Board has been informed that the following agricultural commodities may now be imported into Italy by private firms when import licenses have been obtained covering such shipments: Cotton linters; vegetable tallow; animal tallow; wool; horses and mules.

RESTRICTIONS REMOVED ON VARIOUS BRITISH EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS

In a cablegram to the Department of State, dated April 11, the American Consul General at London reported that general licenses will be issued permitting the export of oranges to all destinations and of the following commodities to all destinations except those to which products on list C can not be sent: peaches, apricots, pears, paisley flour, egg yolk, dried egg products, dried liquid eggs, preserved eggs, not including frozen, imported beans other than soy beans, locust beans, or Chinese horse beans.

BRITISH MAXIMUM PRICES OF FLOUR

The Department of State received a cablegram, under date of April 7, from the American Consul General at London stating that the British Food Controller had fixed the maximum price of fine wheat flour and millers' offals at 12 pounds Sterling (\$58.392) per ton of 2,240 pounds, or approximately \$5.11 per barrel. The maximum price for coarse flour was set at 11 pounds (\$53.526) per ton, or about \$4.63 per barrel.

INCREASE IN POTATO PRICES FOR SCOTLAND

According to a report of March 4, received by the Department of State from the American Consul at Dundee, Scotland, the British Food Controller announced increased prices to potato growers in Scotland, as follows:

"The Food Controller has announced an increase of \$2.40 per ton on Scottish grower's prices for potatoes for March, April, and May, as a direct result of the evidence of a Commission appointed some time ago to enquire into the cost of production. The initial evidence submitted to the Board of Agriculture was not satisfactory, and a Commission was appointed to enquire and report. The report of the Commissioners was to the effect that as the English grower got a rise of \$2.40 for March, April, and May, owing to the earlier wastage of his crop, and that the Scottish growers should have had a higher price earlier on in the season. At a conference in London recently, potato merchants and growers from Scotland urged that, in lieu of the higher prices which they should have received, compensation should be given in the form of bringing the Scottish prices alongside the rates pre-

vailing in England. This is what happened.

"The price of potatoes, till the new rate became operative, was \$31.20 per ton. For March it is \$33.60; for April it will be \$36.00; and for May \$38.40. The rise will probably do much to allay the grumbling at delay in removal, consequent on the lack of shipping, and the fact that much of the crop is rotting in the pits."

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION TO VISIT UNITED STATES

According to a report from the American Consul General at Sydney, Australia, to the Department of State, under date of February 24, a commission representing the agricultural interests of New South Wales will soon visit the United States. The purpose of the visit is to make an investigation of agricultural methods in the United States, especially at harvest time and when most fruits are in season. The commission probably will be headed by Hon. W. G. Ashford, Minister for Lands, and will be composed of representatives of the Department of Agriculture, grain growers, fruit and vegetable producers, animal industries, and railway and shipping transport.

HIDES AND SKINS SITUATION IN INDIA

India is one of the world's important sources for supplies of calf and cattle hides, particularly the class known to the trade as "kids." The United States always has imported considerable quantities of hides and skins from India and these imports increased both in value and quantity for a time after the outbreak of hostilities. However, the war created a heavy demand in the United Kingdom, and the British Government took steps to regulate the export trade in such a manner as to guarantee a sufficient supply for home needs. Within the Indian Munitions Board, there was created the Office of Controller of Hides. No hides could be exported excepting under licenses from this office.

In 1918 the Hides Committee was officially formed for the purpose of securing a more complete control. The members of this committee were firms dealing in hides and skins, and export licenses were issued only to these members. The Controller has announced that

there is no present intention of altering the existing arrangement for the purchase and control of raw hides, and it is probable that the regulations will continue for some time. Because of the heavy demands of the mother country, very few export licenses have been issued for any country except England during the past year. Recently, however, licenses were granted for export to the United States, and on April 5 a concession went into effect whereby licenses were to be granted freely for exports to this country.

The United States also secures very considerable quantities of goat and sheep skins from British India. No restrictions have been placed on the exportation of these, and their movement is limited only by the demand and tonnage available.

The importance of the hides and skins trade and the effect of the restrictions, combined with the shortage of tonnage, are shown by the following statistics of imports from British India into the United States:

	1916	1917	1918
Calf skins . . . pounds . . .	17,672,156	6,755,845	1,452,842
Cattle hides . . . do . . .	20,574,470	7,426,642	489,000

During December, 1918, and in January, 1919, no cattle hides were imported by the United States from British India.

EXPORTS OF GOATSKINS FROM MADRAS, INDIA, TO AUSTRALIA INCREASES

Report from American Consul at Madras to the Department
of State under date of February 19.

"The annual report of the Madras Collector of Customs for 1917-1918 records a considerable increase in exports of raw goatskins from Madras to Australia as compared with previous year. The report says:

"As the space in westward-bound steamers was taken up with more important cargo, e.g., tanned hides, snippers booked much larger quantities of raw skins to the East, especially to Australia. Exports to that country increased threefold and amounted to Rs. 2,550,000 (\$227-350) or about four times greater than those to any other country. As exports of all finished leather from the United Kingdom have been prohibited, Australia has turned to India for her raw skins from which she is now producing glace kid and other leathers. Exports to Japan also increased considerably."

CURRANT SITUATION IN GREECE

Under dates of January 27 and March 8 the Department of State received reports from the American Consul at Patras, Greece, on Greek currants and the movement of the fruit:

"The Greek currant crop of 1918 is estimated at a total of about 125,000 tons. There were carried over from the 1917 crop about 25,000 tons, making a total of fruit in sight at the beginning of the currant year (August 23) of some 150,000 tons.

"The Privileged Company reports exports of currants between August 23, 1918, and January 13, 1919, amounting to 39,286,682 English pounds, compared with total exports of 9,127,351 pounds for the same period in 1917-18; and a total of 101,882,450 pounds for the same period in 1916-17. Most of the fruit exported between August and January past has been for the United Kingdom, with fair quantities for France. The total amount of currants shipped to the United States during that period, as shown by invoices certified by this Consulate, was 136,039 pounds.

"The market is now active and prices firm. During the present month (January) several vessels have left for the United Kingdom with cargoes in whole or in part of currants; and there are now loading at various ports of this district at least five vessels with same destination.

Prices Current on Patras Market and British Offers.

"Prices quoted on the Patras market today for spot currants are: good Provincials, Drs. 360 per mille (\$69.48 per 1,050 pounds); Amalias, Drs. 380 per mille (\$73.34 per 1,050 pounds); Patras, Drs. 390 per mille (\$75.27 per 1,050 pounds); Gulf or Vostizza, Drs. 400 per mille (\$77.-20 per 1,050 pounds). Distillers are paying for the lowest grades for winemaking purposes Drs. 330 per mille (\$65.69 per 1,050 pounds). The British Government is offering for the above-named grades of fruit delivered in England, all expenses paid (including freight of £10 (\$48.-66) per ton, 0.5 per cent £.100 (\$486.60) insurance, about 1 shillings sixpence (\$1.09) duty and other charges, per 112 pounds), the following prices: (given in shillings and pence per 112 pounds): 57/6 (\$13.97), 59/6 (\$14.46), 62/6 (\$15.19), 65/6 (\$15.92)."

AUSTRALIAN APPLE GROWERS SEEK EXPORT MARKETS

The following report on the present status of the apple industry of Australia, dated February 17, was received by the Department of State from the American Consul General at Sydney:

"After being closed to the world's market for upwards of three years, the Australian apple growers are again hopeful for a European outlet for their apples. An arrangement has been completed by which the meat shippers have agreed to surrender 50,000 tons of refrigerating space to the orchardists. It is stated that the space allotted will accommodate about 650,000 bushels of apples. Tasmania is expected to furnish 400,000 bushels, Victoria 100,000 bushels, South Australia 50,000 bushels, and the balance will come from Western Australia. The price anticipated on the London market is \$4.67 per case. The Tasmanian fruit growers are also hopeful of regaining the South American markets which they had previous to the war, especially Brazil and Argentina. The orchardists of Tasmania have recommended to the Government the appointment of a commissioner to build up the South American trade."

COSTA RICAN POTATOES EXPORTED TO CANAL ZONE

According to reports received by the Department of State, under dates of March 14 and 23, from the American Consul at San Jose, Costa Rica, 64,000 bushels of potatoes were exported to the Canal Zone for the Canal Zone Commission during the year ending with February, 1919. A greater quantity was desired, but the lack of shipping facilities prevented exportation. With regard to production in 1918, the Consul made the following statement:

"No definite statistics are available, but calculations based on information procured indicate the last two crops (crops produced twice in a calendar year, February and August) as approximately 320,000 bushels. Of this the August crop was about two-thirds of the total, as it has the benefit of the rains. About 60 per cent of the crop is produced in the highlands in the Cartago region. The average price was \$0.85 a bushel. The acreage planted last year was smaller than formerly. No increase in acreage is likely for the coming season."

EXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF ARGENTINE FLAXSEED

The visible supply of flaxseed, or linseed, in Argentina on December 31, 1918, was estimated to be 2,923,654 bushels and the current harvest, 27,754,339 bushels. The quantity required in 1919 for local consumption, including the amount used by the linseed-oil industry of Argentina, is said to be about 4,330,464 bushels, thus leaving a surplus for export of 23,423,875 bushels, not reckoning with any part of the visible supply at the end of 1918.

The United States imports large quantities of Argentine flaxseed every year. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, the total imports of flaxseed from all sources amounted to 14,679,233 bushels. Of this amount 11,468,039 bushels, or three-fourths, came from Argentina. In 1917 the total imports were 12,393,988 bushels, of which Argentina furnished 5,009,441 bushels. The following table shows the imports of Argentine flaxseed by the United States during the fiscal years ended June 30, 1913-1917:

Year	Quantity	Value
	: Bushels (55lb.):	
1913	429,254	\$ 702,000
1914 . . . . .	.....	.....
1915	3,927,542	4,403,987
1916	11,468,039	14,935,543
1917	5,009,441	7,309,161

No linseed oil was imported by the United States from Argentina during the same period.

FLOUR EXPORTS CONTINUE TO SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO

The American Consul at San Luis Potosi, Mexico, reported to the Department of State, under date of March 8, that wheat flour is the principal article imported from the United States into the State of San Luis Potosi, the value of the imports of this commodity in January and February of this year amounting to \$11,312 and \$13,620, respectively. The Consul stated that, owing to the scarcity of labor in Guanajuato, which furnishes wheat for the flour mills of San Luis Potosi, there is little probability that a crop will be produced this year.

Corn valued at \$2,904 was imported from the United States in January and February, 1919.

EXPORTS OF CHINESE VEGETABLE OILS

The American Consul General at Shanghai, in a special report to the Department of State for the Bureau of Markets, under date of February 15, relative to the vegetable-oil trade of China, stated that bean oil constituted practically 50 per cent of the total exports of vegetable oils from China. This oil is shipped principally from Dairen to the United States and Japan. Peanut oil was taken by Japan, Hongkong, United States, Great Britain, and France; Shanghai and Kiaochow were the chief export centers. The bulk of the wood oil was shipped from Nankow, and was exported mainly to the United States. Shanghai is the chief port for the export of cottonseed oil, the United States importing about 85 per cent. Rapeseed oil was shipped to the United States and Russia from Shanghai and Manchouli. Sesame-seed oil was exported principally from Hankow and Chinkiang, about 90 per cent going to Hongkong.

The following statistics show the various kinds of vegetable oils exported from China during the year 1917 as compared with 1916, according to the Chinese Maritime Customs Returns. Figures for 1918 are not yet available:

Exports of Vegetable Oils from China in 1916 and 1917
According to Chinese Maritime Customs Returns

(Quantities expressed in tons of 2,240 pounds)

Kind of oil	Quantity (tons)		Value	
	1916	1917	1916	1917
Bean	104,376	126,090	\$ 4,596,362	\$ 8,704,662
Cottonseed	7,394	5,203	328,539	294,835
Peanut	37,434	30,903	2,331,028	2,482,715
Rapeseed	2,172	1,092	105,086	57,183
Sesame seed	2,176	594	125,318	56,968
Wood	34,344	26,757	2,141,036	2,313,401
All others	5,282	4,881	230,575	308,518
Total	193,184	195,520	21,020,350	30,316,165

LIST OF IMPORTERS OF RAW COTTON IN LIVERPOOL MAY BE OBTAINED
FROM BUREAU OF MARKETS

A list of the importers of raw cotton in Liverpool, England, is now available for distribution, upon application to the Bureau of Markets. This list does not include the names of dealers and consumers who are not interested in the commercial transaction of importation.

BELGIUM REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON TOBACCO IMPORTS

The American Ambassador to Belgium, Hon. Brand Whitlock, in a cablegram to the Department of State, under date of April 7, stated that the Belgian Government has removed all import restrictions on tobacco.

The following table shows the amounts of leaf tobacco exported by the United States to Belgium during the period 1912 to 1915.

Exports of Leaf Tobacco from the United States to Belgium for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1912 to 1915

Year	Quantity (pounds)	Value
1912	10,072,410	\$1,052,466
1913	9,892,751	1,036,274
1914	11,585,311	1,413,971
1915	1,131,439	141,342

BUTTER EXPORTS FROM ARGENTINA INCREASE

Argentina is increasing its export trade in butter, most of which is being sent to the United Kingdom. The following statistics show that during the period of the war Argentina's exports of butter increased from 124,855 cases of 55.1 pounds each in 1914 to 595,764 cases in 1918, or 377 per cent. In 1918 the United Kingdom took all but 10,422 cases of Argentina's total exports.

Exports of Butter from Argentina, 1913 - 1918

Quantities expressed in cases of 25 kilos (55.1 pounds)

Country	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
United Kingdom	131,877	120,730	183,677	215,245	378,278	585,344
United States	2,010	2,000	4,520	- - -	855	- - -
France	1,350	2,000	240	1,021	3,913	2,112
Italy	20	- - -	- - -	35	- - -	- - -
Brazil	50	5	- - -	1	- - -	- - -
Spain	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,700
Under orders*	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	3,210
Other countries	45	100	750	400	98	231
Total	315,352	124,855	189,206	216,780	383,144	595,764

* Destination unknown.

Table compiled from the Review of the River Plate.

SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The Monthly Trade Report of the National Bank of South Africa, for January, 1919, which was recently received by the Department of State from the American Consul General at Cape Town, gives a comparative statement of the exterior trade of British South Africa for the first 11 months of 1917 and 1918. Items of interest to agriculture are as follows:

Exterior Trade in Various Agricultural Products of British South Africa for the First 11 Months of 1917 and 1918

Imports

Commodity	Quantity		Increase or decrease
	1917	1918	
	Pounds	Pounds	Per cent
Wheat	147,114,434	70,313,349	- 52
Wheat flour (or meal)	56,046,853	32,904,761	- 59
Rice, including paddy	72,383,727	71,737,105	- 8
Sugar	24,781,462	41,503,876	+ 67
Condensed milk or cream	11,907,327	2,947,894	- 75
Coffee, raw	29,722,331	43,579,707	+ 47

Exports

Hides and skins	45,104,575	39,230,612	- 13
Wool	116,522,868	102,228,844	- 7

REDUCED SUPPLY OF ONION SEED, TOMATOES, AND WHEAT IN CANARY ISLANDS

According to the American Consul at Teneriffe, Canary Islands, in a report to the Department of State, dated March 6, fifty per cent of the onion-seed crop, nearly all of which had been contracted for by American buyers, has been destroyed by the most persistent drought within the last 50 years.

In 1917 and 1918 more than 90 per cent of the onion seed grown in the Canaries was exported to the United States. In 1917 these exports were valued at \$133,264; in 1918 at \$92,036.

As reported by the Consul, actual experiment in the Canary Islands seems to have definitely proved that the Canary Island onion seed, if carefully soldered up and kept in a very dry, dark depository,

can be guarded for at least 12 months without apparent loss of germinating power or any depreciation in size, weight, or quality of the onion grown from such conserved seed. There have been heretofore a number of complaints from American buyers that Canary Island seed when kept from one season to another failed to give satisfaction.

The Consul stated that the winter tomato crop, which is exported almost exclusively to the United Kingdom and France, has been damaged at least to the extent of one-third of the production. Early in January winter tomatoes from the Canary Islands brought high prices in Liverpool, Bordeaux, and Marseilles.

The failure of the unirrigated wheat, while only of local interest, has produced a most disastrous situation in the islands, as this wheat has always been counted on to supply the bulk of the "gofio," or finely ground, toasted wheat flour, upon which the majority of the people are accustomed to depend for their principal food. Importations of wheat, therefore, must be greatly increased.

DENMARK'S EXPORTS OF CERTAIN MEAT, DAIRY, AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Large exports of meats and dairy products were made by Denmark during both 1917 and 1918, although during the last year of the war the exports had decreased to a great extent in most commodities. Nevertheless a gain was registered in beef and veal and pickled eggs. The decreases varied from 10.2 per cent for whole milk to 99.5 per cent for pork. The following table gives a comparison of the export trade in foodstuffs for the first 10-month periods of 1917 and 1918, and shows the percentage changes:

Exports of certain agricultural products from Denmark
for the first 10 months of 1917 and 1918

Commodity	Unit	1917	1918	Increase or decrease
				Per cent
Butter . . .	:Pounds	127,514,960	22,311,760	- 82.6
Bacon . . .	: do	145,658,320	5,477,340	- 96.2
Pork . . .	: do	15,821,080	78,760	- 99.5
Hams . . .	: do	771,980	---	---
Beef and Veal	: do	28,104,730	40,552,320	+ 44.2
Eggs, fresh	: Dozen	29,692,500	18,413,000	- 37.6
Eggs, pickled	: do	1,837,000	5,639,000	+ 198.3
Whole milk	: Pounds	12,636,360	11,340,340	- 10.2

ESTIMATED INCREASE IN TOMATO IMPORTS THROUGH NOGALES, MEXICO

According to a report of the American Consul at Nogales, Mexico, to the Department of State, under date of March 26, it is estimated that as high as 600 car loads of tomatoes, approximately 500,000 crates, will be exported to the United States through Nogales this spring.

REPORTED EXPANSION OF EVAPORATED FRUIT INDUSTRY IN GERMANY EXAGGERATED

Report of American Vice Consul in Charge at Rotterdam to
Department of State under date of February 26

"Referring to Department's instruction relative to information which has reached certain American exporters of evaporated fruits to the effect that Germany has been largely increasing the number of her orchards, especially as to apples, and has also expanded her dehydration factories, to an extent which foreshadows attempts at heavy exportations of evaporated apples. I have the honor to report that I have communicated with leading dealers and importers of dried fruits at Rotterdam, and have been advised by them that the information which has reached the American exporters in question has been greatly exaggerated.

"One of my informants, undoubtedly the leading importer of fresh and dried fruits in Rotterdam, states that, although he understands that even before the war Germany had commenced to increase the number of her orchards, especially as to apples, and to expand her dehydration factories, such increase is not very likely to be connected with the exportation of evaporated apples, as the apple crop in Germany has always been so small that the country in prewar days, was obliged to import large quantities from Holland, the United States, and other foreign countries for home consumption. My informant further definitely states that Germany has not yet been exporting evaporated or dried apples, the more so as last year's European crop of apples was very small, and lack of sufficient fertilizer in Germany very materially affected the crop. In his opinion the European apples are not suitable for the manufacture of evaporated apples, owing to the large percentage of moisture which they contain."

The prewar fruit trade of the United States with Germany was important, as is shown by the following table of the exports of fresh and dried fruits to Germany for 1912-1915.

Exports of Fruits by the United States to Germany
for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1912 - 1915

Fresh Fruit

Kind	1912	1913	1914	1915
Apples (barrels)	122,823	272,382	168,792	- - -
Oranges (boxes)	398	1,715	2,643	- - -
Pears	\$7,500	\$466	\$5,324	- - -

Dried Fruit

Apples (pounds)	27,598,728	17,970,592	17,645,697	108,434
Apricots (pounds)	5,223,162	7,806,344	3,841,032	289,850
Peaches (pounds)	927,378	2,431,839	1,852,019	- - -
Prunes (pounds)	31,416,210	49,084,901	17,417,365	1,100
Raisins and other:				
dried grapes	813,870	335,453	45,725	- - -
(pounds)				

All Other Fruit, Green, Ripe, or Dried

	\$221,738	\$156,109	\$116,778	\$3,059
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FOOD PRICES IN POLAND

Butchers in Posen, Poland, pay \$0.64 per pound for pork, and the maximum prices to the consumer are as follows: leg, \$0.40 per pound, ham and back, \$0.72; bacon and lard \$0.86, chops and loin \$0.36.

The new maximum prices of flour and bread, which went into effect on February 3, are as follows:

Rye bread:

2-pound (2.2 lb. American) loaves	\$0.13
3-pound (3.3 lb.) loaves	.10
4-pound (4.4 lb.) loaves	.08

Wheat bread:

3 rolls weighing about 2.5 ounces each	.037
Whole-meal bread, 1-pound loaves	.06

Flour, retail

Rye	pound (1.1 lb.)	.07
Wheat	do	.072

Flour, wholesale:

Rye	100 pounds (110 lbs.)	6.36
Wheat	do	6.70

PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN PORTUGAL

The official fixed prices for various foodstuffs in northern Portugal at present are as follows:

Rice	\$0.17 per pound	Butter	\$0.54 per pound
Sugar .....	.23 per pound	Bacon .....	.82 per pound
Chick-peas .....	.21 per pound	Olive oil .....	.59 per quart
Beans .....	.22 per pound	Codfish .....	.18 per pound

Exports of Dairy Products from New York City During
Week Ending April 12

(Compiled by Bureau of Markets at New York Custom House)

Destination	Manifests: Pending Examination	Butter (Pounds)	Oleo- margarine (Pounds)	Cheese (Pounds)	Condensed Milk (Lb.)	Ev'p'd Milk (Lb.)	Eggs (Dz.)
Belgium . . .	4	345,080	2,422,266	- - - -	6,980,596	240,000	- - -
France . . .	5	- - -	258,000	- - - -	1,649,830	4,953,345	- - -
Italy . . .	1	- - -	706,363	- - - -	- - -	57,750	- - -
Scandinavia .	4	- - -	138,906	400,597	- - -	915,585	- - -
United King- dom . . .	4	1,599,217	148,110	- - - -	7,107,051	1,857,675	153,790
Near East . .	-	- - -	- - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Central America . . .	2	5,770	- - -	23,456	971,313	2,395	450
South America	2	13,865	2,602	2,147	384,545	6,292	- - -
West Indies .	11	53,257	2,534	61,404	43,476	5,250	210
Africa . . .	1	5,544	300	2,833	111,120	14,114	- - -
Miscellaneous	13	10,500	- - -	25,389	5,800	108,435	750
Total . . .	47	2,039,233	3,679,081	515,826	17,253,641	8,260,891	155,200
Total since January 1 . .		12,401,500	6,713,101	2,074,243	133,267,711		1,334,000
Gross weights given.							

REVISION OF STATISTICS ON FOODSTUFFS IN GERMANY

On page 19 of Reports on Foreign Markets No. 2 the production of sugar beets in 1914 was given as 10,876,982 tons. This figure was published in the Economic Supplement to the Review of the Foreign Press of the British War Office for February 26. The Food Supplement of the same publication, issued March 3, gives the official German figure as 16,376,982 tons, probably a correction of the former figure. There also exists a great variance in the statistics on the yield per acre of potatoes, as given in the two publications. These differences are given below, reduced to bushels per acre:

	<u>1913</u>	<u>1914</u>	<u>1915</u>	<u>1916</u>	<u>1917</u>	<u>1918</u>
Economic Supplement,						
dated Feb. 26....	63.5	24.1	48.4	66.0	46.8	45.2
Food Supplement,						
dated Mar. 3.....	237	202	226	134	204	161

The Food Supplement states that the later data do not include Alsace-Lorraine. The average yield in Germany for 1910-1915 was 205.7 bushels per acre. It is therefore probable that the later data are corrections of those published in the Economic Supplement.

APR 29 1919

NO. 5 EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF MARKETS
FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 24, 1919

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

TRADE POSSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS IN FINLAND

A remunerative trade in certain agricultural products probably can be established direct with Finland instead of through intermediaries in other countries, as before the war, according to the American Consul at Helsingfors, in a report to the Department of State, under date of February 13, 1919. Excerpts from the report are given below:

"Finland's purchases from America have always been made through local representatives of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English, and German agencies, and as these goods entered as imports from Christiania, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Hull, Hamburg, and Lubeck, official statistics show very little import of goods from the United States, although considerable quantities of American flour, cotton, tobacco, and agricultural implements have entered Finland through the above-mentioned intermediaries. It is the opinion of the leading business men of this country that these intermediary agents can never recover their prewar market in Finland, and the sincere hope is that all business between the United States and Finland will be done direct. Toward the fulfillment of such hope steps have already been taken to establish two steamer services: one from Helsingfors and another from Abo, both with semi-monthly sailings. Present tentative plans have not yet materialized for lack of procurable tonnage.

"But as there will be little export from Finland to the United States unless the market, for instance, in timber is abnormally cheapened by war-accumulated stocks, or cheaper processes in wood-pulp manufacture arrives, it will be necessary for these steamers to carry timber and paper to England and there procure cargo to America. For the direct return trip eastward to Helsingfors and Abo there should be an abundance of cargo if American exporters will give some little attention not only to Finland's own needs but also to Finland as a back-door through which will go much of the enormous amount of soon-and-certain-to-be American goods into Russia.

"Finland, before the war, had . . . no direct connection with the United States or any other trans-Atlantic country.

How to Increase Finnish-American Trade

"In addition to direct steamer service, there should be some organization established whereby American goods could be exhibited in Finland, and American exporters should have representatives speaking Finnish and Swedish in the local markets. Native Finns who know and sympathize with American business and business methods would be the best.

"Some years ago American flour mills had a Finnish resident agent in Helsingfors who had local subagents in the larger towns. By this means large quantities of American flour entered Finland; and as American millers gave deference to Russian methods of grinding, this import replaced the Russian article to a large extent.

"Before the war and before cereals were made liable to duty, flour was the chief import from the United States; next came pork. Dried fruit is sure to have a good opening in Finland, as all the stock is now exhausted, and it will be a long time before any imports from the accustomed quarter of Central Europe can begin. Plums in great quantities at one time came from Bosnia. Raisins are mostly imported by direct steamers from Spain.

No Statistics for American Imports

"It is to be regretted that no reliable figures can be obtained regarding imports from the United States into Finland, since statistics do not state the original export country, but only the country from which the goods last came. So, as American goods were transhipped at Hull or Hamburg they were listed as English or German imports, respectively.

Price Quotations and Credits

"Prices, if possible, should be quoted c. i. f., though Finnish importers have been advised that this is extremely difficult for American firms because of transshipment. During the war shipments f.o.b. to Finland have been much more numerous than c.i.f., but the f.o.b. quotations were always to some port, such as Hull, Hamburg, or Copenhagen, with which Finland had direct steamer connections.

"Under normal conditions the customary credit terms for American and English goods have been reimbursement in 90 days or 1 to 2.5 per cent cash discount against documents. The Germans have been granting credits of three to six months against bills of exchange or open credit, and to this has been ascribed the success of German goods in the Finnish market. Of course, American and English firms at times gave buyers accommodating credits, but only after a long business connection had established confidence.

"Discounts have varied greatly; and though reduction as high as 90 per cent from standard price lists has been known, the quotations on colonial products, including grain, flour, and bacon, have always been net.

Commercial Ratings

"There are two institutions in Finland which furnish commercial ratings: O.Y. Credit at Tammerfors, with branch at Helsingfors; and the Liikemiesten Tiedonanto Yhdistys, situated at 6 Mikonkatu, Helsingfors. They, however, as a rule, give information only to members, though foreign firms may become members. All the large banks are able to give the financial standing of Finnish firms and generally firms give banks as references."

LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH TRADE HAS BEEN RESUMED

The War Trade Board published on April 8, a complete list of the countries and regions with which trade has been resumed since the signing of the armistice, as follows:

Adriatic ports	Palestine
Alsace-Lorraine	Poland
Black Sea ports	Roumania
Bulgaria	Serbia
Czecho-Slovakia	Siberia
Estonia	Syria
Finland	Turkey
German Austria	Territory adjacent to and
German Colonies	dependent upon the Adriatic
Occupied territory of Germany	ports, including -
Territory included in line set	Albania
out in article 3 of the military	Bosnia
clause of the Armistice Protocol	Croatia
of November 3, 1918.	Dalmatia
Luxemburg	Herzegovina
Mesopotamia	Montenegro
	Slavonia

FURTHER RELAXATIONS IN EXPORT REGULATIONS FOR SHIPMENTS TO HOLLAND AND DENMARK

The War Trade Board announced that further relaxations have been made with reference to the exportation of the commodities mentioned below to Holland and Denmark. Applications for export licenses will now be considered by the War Trade Board for the shipment of these commodities to the countries mentioned if accompanied by the proper import certificate number.

HOLLAND: Butter; calves' stomachs and rennet; cheese; chicory; glucose; jams and marmalade; meats of all kinds and poultry; milk, condensed and powdered; seeds, vegetable; spices; vegetables.

DENMARK: Chicory; meats of all kinds; vegetables.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS REMOVED BY THE JUGO-SLAV GOVERNMENT

The American Charge d'Affaires at Belgrade reported to the Department of State, under date of March 17, that the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has removed the restrictions on the free internal trade in the following agricultural products and machinery: Cereals and flour of all sorts; cattle, draft animals, and fowls alive or slaughtered; meat, fresh, salted, or smoked; greases and lard; vegetables, grain, and seeds, (beans, potatoes, cabbages); fruits; and all fruit products (preserves, marmalades etc.); oils of all sorts; and all agricultural implements.

The Interdiction against the free internal commerce in all other agricultural products not named above remains in effect.

FRANCE REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION OF SUGAR

The following cablegram was received by the Department of State, under date of April 17, from the American Consul General at Paris:

"Ministerial decree of April 14 abrogates those of August 5, 1914, and March 16, 1916, which prohibited temporary importation of raw sugar of foreign origin. Consequently such raw sugar for refining, manufacture of chocolate confectionery, preserves, biscuits, dry cakes, canned fruits, liquors, and all products for human consumption can now be temporarily imported for reexportation under special guarantee that goods will be reexported."

OCEAN RATES ON DAIRY PRODUCTS

The United States Shipping Board has quoted the following rates on dairy products to the destinations shown. The rates are subject to confirmation and are given herein as an estimate only, approximating the cost of transportation.

Ocean Freight Rates on Dairy Products from North Atlantic Ports of
the United States.

Country or Port	Commodity ¹	Rate
Argentina	Milk, (condensed	\$25.*
(Buenos Aires)	(evaporated, or	
	(dried)	
Australia	do	\$25.*
Belgium		
(Antwerp)	do	\$1.25 per 100 pounds or \$0.65 per cubic foot.**
Brazil		
Rio de Janeiro	do	\$26.50, landed *
Santos	do	\$25, landed *
Rio Grande do Sul	do	\$30, not landed *
British Honduras		
(Belize)	do	\$1.42 per cubic foot or \$0.34 per 100 pounds.**
India		
(Calcutta; Colombo)	do	\$0.60 per cubic foot
Chili		
(Antofagasta; Arica;		
Valparaiso).	do	\$0.65 per cubic foot or \$1.16 per 100 pounds.**
China	Milk, butter;	\$25.*
	cheese.	
Colombia		
(Cartagena; Santa		
Marta)	Milk	\$0.36 per cubic foot or \$0.79½ per 100 pounds.**
Costa Rica		
(Port Limon)	do	\$0.45½ per cubic foot or \$0.94½ per 100 pounds.**
Cuba	(Butter	\$0.90 per 100 pounds.
(Havana)	(Cheese	\$1.02 per 100 pounds.
	(Milk	\$0.64 per 100 pounds.
	(Butter	\$0.47 per cubic foot or \$0.84 per 100 pounds.
Dominican Republic	(Cheese	\$0.38 per cubic foot or \$0.68 per 100 pounds.
	(Milk	\$0.38 per cubic foot or \$0.68 per 100 pounds.
Dutch East Indies	Milk	\$25 *
France		
Havre	Butter and	
	Milk	\$0.65 per cubic foot or \$1.25 per 100 pounds.**
Marseilles	do	\$0.85 per cubic foot or \$1.60 per 100 pounds.**
North Africa	Milk	\$50 *
Gibraltar	do	\$0.85 per cubic foot or \$1.60 per 100 pounds.**
Greece		
Patras	do	\$50 *
Salonica	do	\$55 *

*Per ton of 2,240 pounds, or 40 cubic feet, ship's option.

**Weight or measurement, ship's option.

¹The word "milk" in this table should be construed as "Milk condensed, evaporated, or dried".

Country or Port	Commodity	Rate
Haiti	Butter	:\$0.40 per cubic foot.
Honduras (Porto Cortez)	Milk	:\$0.42 per cubic foot or \$0.84 per 100 pounds.**
Hongkong	do	:\$25 *
Italy (Genoa; Naples)	do	:\$0.85 per cubic foot or \$1.60 per 100 pounds.**
Jamaica (Kingston)	Butter, cheese, and milk	:\$0.25 per cubic foot or \$0.50 per 100 pounds.**
Japan	Milk	:\$25 *
Netherlands (Rotterdam)	do	:\$0.65 per cubic foot or \$1.25 per 100 pounds.**
Panama	(Butter	:\$0.40 per 100 pounds.
Cristobal;	(Milk	:\$0.20 per cubic foot or \$0.40 per 100 pounds.**
Colon	(Cheese	:\$0.20 per cubic foot or \$0.40 per 100 pounds.**
Philippine Islands (Manila)	Milk	:\$25 *
Spain (Barcelona)	do	:\$0.95 per cubic foot or \$1.85 per 100 pounds.**
Straits Settlements (Singapore)	do	:\$25 *
United Kingdom	Butter, cheese, and milk	:\$0.50 per cubic foot or \$1 per 100 pounds.**

*Per ton of 2,240 pounds, or 40 cubic feet, ship's option.

**Weight or measurement, ship's option.

BRITISH RESTRICTIONS REMOVED ON VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

According to a cablegram to the Department of State from the American Consul General at London, dated April 18, the Board of Trade has removed the restrictions on the importation of uncleaned and unpurified feathers for bedding and down. Cleaned and purified feathers and down will be admitted to the extent of the imports in 1913 and in proportionate monthly quantities.

General licenses have been issued for cocoa powder, canned lobsters, crabs, prawns, shrimps, and oysters, and dried fruit.

TEXTILE RAW MATERIALS SITUATION IN GERMANY

According to information from German sources, the textile industry of that country is being reestablished, although most of the raw materials will have to be imported, as in prewar years.

In order to place the industry on a firm basis as soon as possible, plenary powers have been given the Secretary of State for the Imperial Economy Office in a decree issued on February 1. Under the powers granted by this decree the entire control of the raw material is placed in the hands of the Imperial Economy Office. With the State Secretary rests the control of the commercial and industrial supplies, distribution, utilization, storage, sales, consumption, and prices of the raw materials for the textile industry, as well as of semi- or wholly manufactured textiles.

According to a statement of the President of the National Office for Textile Plants, the following table represents the average annual pre-war imports of raw materials by Germany:

Cotton	486,000 tons*
Wool	182,000 tons*
Jute	154,000 tons*
Flax	51,000 tons*
Hemp	55,000 tons*
Sisal	31,000 tons*
Silk	4,000 tons*
Total	963,000 tons*

* 1 ton= 2,204.6 pounds.

The same official stated recently that under present conditions at least 700,000 tons will be needed.

According to the Imperial Economy Office the domestic yield of raw materials for the manufacture of textiles before the war was small. The wool shearing produced about 7,000 tons yearly; flax, 20,000 tons; and hemp about 2,000 tons.

Germany had to depend largely therefore on the importation of raw materials. For instance, before the war Germany was the second largest market for American cotton, in 1914 taking 30.3 per cent (including re-exports) of the total exports of that commodity. Germany was the largest foreign market for the lower grades, the marketing of which now presents a serious problem in the United States. As imports probably cannot be made in large quantities for some time, German textile manufacturers consider that the situation is very grave, for the industry employs nearly 2,000,000 persons.

The American Consul at Zurich, Switzerland, forwarded to the Department of State, under date of January 31, 1919, a statement made by the head of the War Raw Materials Department of Germany to the "Konfektionär" that on January 31 there were on hand in the Departments for War and Raw Materials for release to the industry, approximately 25 per cent of the quantity of wool and 15 per cent of the quantity of cotton available in 1913. The release of this supply (if it actually exists) will provide sufficient material for the textile industry for four or five months, according to the War Raw Materials Department.

In order to provide for the protection of the industry after this period, various measures have been planned. It is said that the acreage of fiber plants will be increased. It is estimated that several hundred thousand acres of textile plants will produce sufficient fiber to balance

any shortage in imports. The President of the National Office for Textile Plants stated on December 28, 1918, that "the old objection that cotton is essential to Germany is valid no longer, as hemp and flax can be treated to form a perfect substitute for cotton; and the point now is to obtain sufficient fiber, the particular kind of fiber being quite a subsidiary consideration."

According to the German Agricultural Society, the area in flax increased from 29,600 acres in 1914 to 123,500 in 1918, and the latter figure would be doubled in 1919. From each acre in flax, 500 pounds of fiber, and 53 pounds of flaxseed are produced. The chief sources of the flax supply before the war were Belgium and Russia. In order to meet the needs of Germany without imports, it is estimated that at least 740,000 acres of flax must be placed under cultivation. However, an estimate, published on February 16, stated that 160,550 acres were in flax. Large quantities, therefore, will have to be imported.

The Society is authority for the statement that from 1915 to 1918 the area of hemp increased from 988 to 10,621 acres. But in order to meet the domestic needs, it is estimated that the area would have to be increased to 1,852,500 acres. The yield is said to be from 900 to 1,000 pounds of fiber per acre. In 1918 the nettle yielded 200 tons of fiber, peat 2,000 tons, and the thistle 100 tons.

During the war, when Germany had exhausted its supply of raw cotton, substitutes of various kinds made their appearance. The most important of these was paper yarn, and for some time it was thought to make a perfect substitute for cotton. However, clothing and many other articles made from the paper yarn did not prove satisfactory. The German people unwillingly accepted such articles. As the "Konfektionär" puts it, "The German public declines to eat at tables covered with paper fabric." It appears satisfactory only for the manufacture of sacks, carpets, beltings, and like articles which are not to be washed. It is evident, therefore, that paper yarn will not compete with cotton in a material way.

According to a statement of the Imperial Economy Office in the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, February 15, 1919, by working up rags and waste, 33,000 tons of substitute cotton and 25,000 tons of substitute wool were produced during the war. During 1918, manufacturers of a so-called synthetic staple fiber produced 7,000 tons. Spinning paper and spinning yarns showed a yearly output of 150,000 tons.

Even with an increased production of vegetable fibers, the domestic wants of Germany can not be met, and therefore the resumption of the textile industry on anything like the prewar basis will depend upon the amounts of raw materials which can be imported.

Since January 1, 1919, permits have been required for the importation of raw materials. A fee is charged by the Imperial Office for Textile Administration amounting to 1 mark (\$0.238) for raw materials valued at 1,000 marks (\$238) or less, the minimum fee being 3 marks (\$0.714).

An official order issued on February 25, effected large increases in the prices of wool. These increases varied from \$0.58 to \$1.08 per

pound. The prices of washed wool per pound, including the washing fee to the sheep owner, are as follows:

<u>Quality</u>	<u>New Price</u>	<u>Former price</u>
AAAA	\$ 2.72	\$1.64
A	2.24	1.40
B	1.99	1.24
C	1.73	1.07
D	1.52 . . . . .	.88
E	1.29 . . . . .	.71

If the seller is not the owner of the sheep, the above prices are increased 3 per cent. The sheep owner may now retain, without making special application, 2.2 pounds of unwashed wool if he has only one sheep, and a maximum of 55 pounds for more than 200 sheep, provided that the balance of the wool is given up.

EXPORTATION OF APPLES FROM AUSTRALASIA

According to the Canadian Weekly Bulletin, dated April 7, 1919, up to the first of April the British Government had arranged for the shipment of 624,000 cases of apples from Australasia, five-sixths of which will be moved from Tasmania. The freight rate per case to the United Kingdom is to be \$1.24 per case. The maximum retail price in the English market has been fixed at \$4.63 per case of 37 pounds and \$5.07 per case of 40 pounds. If sufficient refrigerator space is obtained during March and April, which would be in time for the market this season at London, the indications are that later in the year the domestic markets of Australia will be bare of supplies. The production for 1919 in Tasmania has been good, but the crop in Australia is considerably below the normal yield: the production in New South Wales is insufficient for domestic requirements; South Australia is practically out of the market; and the crops of Victoria and Western Australia are reported to be fair, with only a limited quantity for export. Therefore, probably it may be reasonable to expect that the embargo against the importation of apples into Australia, which is still in effect, may be removed in time to permit the importations from America from the crop of this year.

CUBAN SUGAR WAREHOUSES FULL

The Department of State received a cablegram from Hon. W. E. Gonzales, American Minister to Cuba, under date of April 11, to the effect that Cuban sugar warehouses both at ports and plantations are con-

gested. The report indicates that there is urgent need at the plantations for empty barrels now stored in the port warehouses. Their removal will also make room for the plantation stocks, as the mills will be unable to grind the cane after the storage space has become exhausted.

PRICES OF BEET ROOT AND SUGAR IN FRANCE

The Minister of Agriculture has fixed the minimum price of beet root with a density of 7.5° at \$14.57 per ton. For each 0.1° above 7.5° \$0.154 is added, for each 0.1° below 7.5° down to 7° , \$0.154 is subtracted. The Minister requested the manufacturers not to charge more than \$0.339 per pound for sugar.

TREATY BETWEEN SPAIN AND ENGLAND PROVIDES FOR IMPORTATION OF SPANISH FRUIT

According to cablegrams received from Hon. J. E. Willard, American Ambassador to Spain, under dates of April 13 and 17, a treaty has been concluded between the British and Spanish Governments whereby (1) a loan of 75,000,000 pesetas (\$14,475,000) at 5 per cent is made to Spain; (2) the importation of Spanish fruit into the United Kingdom is allowed; and (3) the Cortina convention is reestablished permitting the exportation to Spain of a minimum of 150,000 tons of coal monthly at a maximum guaranteed price of 25.13 pesetas (\$4.859) per ton. Spain is to have the benefit of any reduction in price of coal.

During the five years preceding the war the total quantity of oranges imported by the United Kingdom averaged approximately 9,308,500 boxes per year, estimated in terms of the Spanish crate of 64 pounds. Of this amount Spain supplied annually an average of 8,234,710 boxes, or 83 per cent of the total imports of oranges by the United Kingdom.

For the season of 1918-19 up to March 22, 1919, Spain exported to the United Kingdom 1,679,230 boxes of oranges.

MARKET FOR AMERICAN TOBACCO

The American Consul at Teneriffe, Canary Islands, reported to the Department of State, under date of February 3, that the tobacco industry in the islands is growing rapidly, and that American tobacco is in demand.

"There now seems an unusual opportunity to extend direct sales of American tobacco along several lines especially suited for the growing needs of the Canary Island cigar and cigarette factories. This demand has increased largely within the past few months.

"Seven new factories have been established in Santa Cruz de Teneriffe since the signing of the armistice on November 11th, 1918. Much of the output has been contracted for by the French army authorities, and large orders are now held by Canary Island factories for the Spanish military forces in Morocco. The growth of this business has given employment to several thousand women, and local firms now claim to be preparing for a largely increased output in 1919.

"There is a heavy demand for "scrap" tobacco "filler" or "lugs" and what is known as "type 26" of Kentucky tobacco. Scrap tobacco has been scarce with prices running between \$13.20 and \$19.50 the hundred pounds. Direct shipments have now taken the place of the prewar indirect exportation through Liverpool, England, and Hamburg, Germany.

"In making sales, particular care should be taken to secure a sales contract, carefully tested to suit local legal requirements, as American firms had serious losses by failing to attend to this detail.

"Qualities now needed in this market include Kentucky twist ("engarillado") and loose leaf stock ready for cutting, and packed in bales of about 2,000 pounds avoirdupois. The "twist" is desired in lengths from 25 to 30 inches, and packed in hogshead shocks of about 1,000 pounds avoirdupois. Seed-leaf stocks for cigar wrappers are now being sought for, and are preferably shipped as case goods, running about 300 pounds avoirdupois the package.

"There is also a small but steady demand for Porto Rico cigar-stock."

A list of the importers of tobacco in the Canary Islands, which was forwarded with the report, may be had upon application to the Bureau of Markets.

CORRECT GUARANTEED PRICE OF CANADIAN WHEAT

On page 8 of Reports on Foreign Markets No. 2 the guaranteed price of wheat in Canada was printed as \$2.45 per bushel. The correct fixed price is \$2.245 per bushel.

EXTERIOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE OF SIBERIA

The Department of State received a report from the American Consul on Detail at Vladivostok under date of January 25, relative to the exterior trade of Siberia.

Owing to the lack of railway transportation facilities, Siberian shipping men believe that there will be no appreciable exports to America for at least six months, and possibly eighteen months. Without a radical improvement in the railway service both exports and imports will remain restricted, particularly as the Vladivostok warehouses are congested.

The following estimates of the exterior trade of Siberian ports for 1919 have been made by the Siberian cooperative organizations:

Estimated Exports from Siberia in 1919 (tons of 2,000 pounds)

Butter	36,000 :	Wool	7,200
Fats	1,800 :	Bristles and hair	900
Flax and Fibres	3,600 :	Cedar nuts	1,800
		Feathers and down	60

Estimated Imports by Siberia in 1919 (tons of 2,000 pounds)

Textiles	18,000 :	Sugar	27,000
Tea	18,000 :		

THE FOOD SITUATION IN SIBERIA

The removal of the restrictions on the sale of grain in Siberia has been announced by the Government at Omsk, according to a report to the Department of State, under date of January 25, 1919, from the American Consul on Detail at Vladivostok. The Government stated that it would not be necessary, therefore, to assign foodstuffs to the various localities. As a result of this announcement the Siberian cooperative organizations made larger purchases and wider distribution of foodstuffs. Notwithstanding the activities of these volunteer organizations, the Government has not found it possible to relinquish entire control of the food supply.

On January 21 the Ministry of Food Supply announced that commissions would be sent to Mongolia and Australia to purchase cattle, meat, lard and other animal products for the army and the civil population.

In order to provide sufficient cereal foodstuffs, it was reported that all mills producing a ton or more cereals a day, would be taken over by the Ministry of Food Supply. It was reported that a general plan of storing supplies for a year was being worked out, and that 60,000,000 roubles (\$30,960,000) had been assigned for the purchase of food supplies.

On November 1, 1918, the price of sugar was increased from 56.8 to 200 roubles per pood (\$0.81 to \$2.87 per pound) by the Siberian authorities.

MARKET FOR VEGETABLE SEEDS IN SIBERIA

In a report to the Department of State, dated January 25, from the American Consul on Détail at Vladivostok, a scarcity of vegetable seeds exists in Siberia, and Japanese seedmen are receiving large orders. Seeds were formerly imported by Siberia from the Netherlands and Denmark. In the opinion of the Consul, an opportunity exists for American seedmen to establish a profitable trade.

INCREASING DEMAND FOR FLOUR IN JAPAN

According to a recent report from the American Consul General at Yokohama, Japan, to the Department of State, demand for wheat flour is increasing gradually owing to the steady rise in the price of rice. The consumption of flour in Tokyo, Yokohama, and other districts of eastern Japan during 1918 was about 300,000 bags a month, but since the beginning of 1919, the demand has exceeded 500,000 bags. On February 15 the supply of flour in these localities was only 450,000 bags.

The prices of wheat and wheat flour show no signs of decreasing, although the Japanese Government is sponsor for bills introduced in the Japanese Diet providing for the entrance of wheat flour free of duty, and for the lowering of the duty on imports of wheat. During the latter part of February, the quotations on the Tokyo market for future deliveries of wheat were as follows: March, \$2.24; April, \$2.22; and May, \$2.17 per bag. Persons well informed on the subject express the view that high prices for rice will be maintained throughout 1919, and that wheat will remain high, irrespective of the passage of laws reducing the import duties. The consumption of wheat by the millers up to the first of July, when the new crop is ready, will exceed 8,702,000 bushels. Much of this supply will have to be imported, and the only available sources at the present time are Australia, Manchuria, and Tsingtau, China. The Chino-Japanese treaty of September, 1918, provides, among other things, that China shall furnish Japan with 100,000 tons, or 3,733,333 bushels, of wheat a year. Up to February 15, half of this amount had been imported by Japan, leaving a balance of 50,000 tons yet to come.

ARGENTINE BUTTER BOUGHT BY ENGLAND

According to the Canadian Weekly Bulletin, dated April 7, 1918, the British Government has contracted for virtually the entire export production of butter of Argentina until the end of 1919 at a price of about \$0.328 per pound. (See also Reports on Foreign Markets No. 4, page 10.)

Exports of Dairy Products, Meats, and Meat Products from
New York City During Week Ending April 19.

DAIRY PRODUCTS*

Destination	Butter (Pounds)	Oleo- margarine (Pounds)	Cheese (Pounds)	Condensed Milk (lb.)	Ev'p'd Milk (lb.)	Eggs (Doz.)
Belgium	---	---	---	3,003,072:	---	---
France	9,435:	---	15,794:	4,748,558:	1,685,870:	---
Italy	---	---	---	330,000:	---	---
Scandinavia	---	179,897:	360,268:	60,000:	65,000:	---
United Kingdom	1,750:	---	---	2,745,348:	564,900:	306,790
Near East	---	---	---	---	---	---
Central America	25,658:	50,100:	12,251:	12,639:	262,649:	---
South America	10,925:	---	3,066:	29,102:	1,397:	---
West Indies	10,500:	1,000:	18,310:	973,972:	147,485:	---
Africa	---	---	---	13,200:	---	---
Miscellaneous:	---	---	---	4,939,834:	5,469,782:	---
Total	58,268:	230,997:	409,689:	16,855,725:	8,197,083:	306,790
Total since January 1	12,459,768:	6,944,098:	2,485,932:	158,320,519:	1,640,790:	

MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS**

Commodity	Weekly exports	Total since Jan. 1
Beef:	Pounds	Pounds
Fresh or frozen	3,253,497	57,279,613
Canned and pickled :	1,199,378	53,369,084
Lamb and mutton	22,400	430,905
Pork:		
Fresh or frozen	144,813	24,999,170
Dry, salt, and		
pickled	2,432,757	287,593,568
Bacon, hams, and		
shoulders	19,167,126	218,583,233
Sausage	373,849	5,292,826
Poultry and game	4,200	1,774,280
Lard and lard com-		
pounds	17,639,995	172,170,333

* Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 2; France 6; Italy 1; Scandinavia 5; United Kingdom 7; Central America 2; South America 4; West Indies 16; Miscellaneous 11; total 54.

** Manifests pending examination: 54. Gross weights given.

